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MARRIAGES.

On the 20th June, 1895, at the Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. Dr. Morris, FREDERIK JAN HAVERDROEZE, Consul-General of the Netherlands for South China, to Mademoiselle MARIE MELANIE GALFRE, of Geneva (Switzerland). [1299]

At the British Legation, Tokyo, on the 12th inst., Professor JOHN MILNE, F.R.S., of the Imperial Japanese University, to TONE, daughter of the late Horikawa Noritsune, Abbot of Ganjo-ji, Nishi Hongwan-ji, Hakodate.

DEATHS.

On the 18th June, 1895, on board the steamship *Poochi*, from Wenchow to Shanghai, CHARLOTTE, the dearly loved wife of Dr. J. H. LOWEY, Wenchow. [1326]

At Shanghai, on the 19th of June, 1895, JOHN HAALCKE, aged 31 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 25th May arrived per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 21st June (27 days); and the Canadian mail of the 3rd June arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 25th June (22 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is reported that three million yen is to be disbursed from the War Fund for laying a cable between Formosa and Osumi, Kiushiu.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Electric Co., Limited, was held on the 22nd inst., when the report and accounts were adopted and passed.

M. Pilinski, who has been acting as Minister for France at Bangkok during the absence of M. Pavie on the buffer state Commission, has, it is reported by the *Progrès de Saigon*, been recalled to France.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 19th inst. says it understands that the proposed Russian loan to China is not yet definitely accepted.

Governor Creagh of British North Borneo and Mrs. Creagh left Labuan for Singapore in the steamer *Banjermassin* on the 12th inst. They are on their way to Europe.

We learn that the French gunboat *Forfait* which left Amoy the other day, has gone to Wenchow for the protection of the French missionaries, disturbances having broken out there.

The installation of H. E. Sir C. B. H. Mitchell as District Grand Master of the Eastern Archipelago took place at Singapore on the 14th inst. at a special communication of the Grand Lodge of the District.

The Governor of Cochinchina, who went to Hué recently to pay a visit to the King of Annam, took with him some handsome presents for His Majesty specially ordered from France, consisting of two magnificent Sevres vases, two tea services, and two coffee services, also in Sevres porcelain.

The report of Russia having sent a notice to the Japanese Government demanding the withdrawal of Japanese troops from Korea is denied by the Japanese semi-official journal the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which says it learns from the authorities that Russia has never advanced such a demand.

The weather this year in Nanking and Hangchow has been, the *Mercury* says, exceedingly favourable to the mulberry, and it is now almost certain that an exceptionally fine silk crop will be had. Finer weather has not been experienced for ten years, when the best kind of a year for silk was obtained.

There are again rumours, the *N. C. Daily News* says, that Sir Robert Hart is going home, that Mr. Cartwright is retiring, and that the Inspector-General of Customs will be carried on by Mr. R. E. Bredon and Mr. Hippisley. The latter is, it is said, to be succeeded at Shanghai by Mr. M. Boyd Bredon.

The natives report, the *Mercury* says, that already a number of people have been looking about in Soochow to find suitable sites for building godowns and wharves, and attempting to buy. The owners, however, in most cases refuse to sell, thinking that, as it is to be a Treaty port, they will be able to realise better prices in a few years.

The prohibition of the immigration of Chinese into the colony from Hainan and Swatow, on account of plague, has been removed, the epidemic at those places being at an end. Immigration from Macao is still prohibited, but the disease is disappearing at that Settlement also. There have been a few sporadic cases at Hongkong during the week.

On the 13th inst. a godown in the occupation of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann and Co., Yokohama, was completely destroyed by fire. It was at the time full of tea already packed for shipment. The loss is estimated at about \$120,000. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is surmised that some coolies had been smoking near the place and the live embers which they probably knocked from their pipes were blown into the godown and so brought about the disaster.

The annual report of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, shows that the debit balance at profit and loss account has been reduced from £1,755 to £1,389, thus showing a profit on the year's working of less than £400.

The situation in South Formosa remains unchanged, the Japanese not having yet arrived and the foreigners at Anping being protected by a British guard. In the North everything is quiet, the Japanese having established complete order, and business is proceeding as usual.

The Shanghai native papers report that Tong, late "President" of the "Formosan Republic," is in Nanking, where his family also is. He has had several interviews with Chang Chih-tung and has consulted him about the numerous affairs he has now to settle, but all this, the *Mercury* says, is being kept very secret.

It is reported that the revised Treaty of Commerce between Japan and Russia was signed at St. Petersburg on the 8th inst. by M. Labanoff, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Nishi Tokujiro, Japanese Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia. According to the Japanese press Germany and France will conclude the revision of their Treaties with Japan ere long, as Russia has already signed hers. This prompt settlement with the three Powers is due to the fact that they promised to show an exceptional friendliness to Japan if the latter consented to their proposal with regard to the returning of Liaotung to China.

According to despatches from Swatow dated the 10th instant, the Canton Viceroy despatched General Chang, the Provincial Commander-in-Chief of Kwangtung, on the 4th instant to crush the Ch'anglohsien insurrection with only 1,500 men, assisted by the sedentary garrison of that district, numbering 500 men. At the same time the naval Commander-in-Chief of the province, Admiral Cheng, was ordered to despatch a naval brigade of 500 men, armed with repeating rifles, to crush the Huichou rebellion in the district of Yungan. But another despatch, wired to the local mandarins yesterday afternoon (18th inst.) from Huichou, reports the defeat on the 9th and 12th instant respectively of both the naval brigade and the land forces by the rebels. Ch'anglo is in Chiayingchou subprefecture, near the Fukien frontier, while Yungan in Huichou prefecture is south of Swatow.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Says the *Japan Mail*:—When the designs of Russia and France have matured; when they have provided a sufficiency of pretexts to justify some territorial "re-adjustments" in the East, England will be fully prepared to step in and take her share. She has never yet been "left" in a game of scramble, and there is no prospect of her record being presently changed in that respect. Russia can have her port on the Pacific; France may push a little farther up the valley of the Meikong. England, in that event, will simply alter her position to suit these changes. It is all very bad morality, we admit, but just as a corporation is beyond the reach of libel, so a nation cannot be arraigned before any tribunal of ethics. If the millenium is ever to come, it will be inaugurated by a union of the Anglo-Saxon race all over the world. In the meanwhile nations that have not passed their zenith must grow, by fair means if possible, but at any rate grow.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN CHINA.

The Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai takes a sanguine view of the growth of manufacturing industry in China. It is anticipated, says Mr. A. E. HIPPLEY in his annual report, that, peace restored, "China, profiting by Japan's experience, will develop her national resources by encouraging the general use of steam machinery. The number of factories springing up here proves that official encouragement is unnecessary and to be deprecated. Merchants see the profit gained by Japan from yarn spun from Chinese cotton; they know that filatures produce silk realising Tls. 200 a picul more than will that spun from the same cocoons by the old primitive method, and that steam curing would raise the general average of tea to the level of the choicest crops. They are anxious to erect factories, and knowing they can run them more cheaply than officials can, they are willing even to risk competition. If, then, the Government leave merchants a free hand, factories will come of themselves, and the profits will enrich the mercantile classes by millions of taels annually." This is an encouraging view to take, and the forecast is, we think, justified by the circumstances. Not that we have any faith in the Chinese Government as initiating or encouraging progress. Any forward movement has to be forced on China from without, and that is precisely what is about to take place in the present instance. Japan has by treaty secured for foreigners the right to import machinery and engage in manufacturing enterprise in China. What is conceded to foreigners cannot well be denied to Chinese subjects. If a foreign firm is permitted to erect a cotton mill, permission to do likewise must necessarily be accorded to any Chinaman so desiring. The provincial Viceroys may wish to preserve the use of foreign machinery as a monopoly for themselves, but under the new conditions this will be impossible, so far as the open ports are concerned where foreigners are now entitled to compete with them. Already permission has been obtained by native capitalists to establish several cotton mills at Canton, and the official establishments at Shanghai and in the neighbourhood of Hankow will no doubt have to meet the competition of private establishments ere long. We are at the commencement of an industrial revolution in China, and soon the busy hum of steam machinery will be heard in all the great trading centres. And the use of steam in manufacturing enterprises will inevitably break down in course of time the opposition to the adoption of railways and to the admission of steam navigation to the great waterways of the country. The British merchant and manufacturer, who have for more than half a century been clamouring for the opening up of China, cannot shrink from the results of the partial opening up of the country that seems to be now about to take place. Competition with British industries there will undoubtedly be and in some directions the competition may succeed to the extent of rendering unprofitable the importation of British goods, but whatever falling off in the import trade there may be in one direction will be much more than made up for by the increase in others, provided those interested adapt themselves to the new conditions, which British merchants are not usually slow to do. We have seen how the foreign trade of Japan has grown *pari passu* with her industrial development, and the same result may confidently be anticipated with regard to China.

THE SZECHUEN RIOTS.

Quos Deus vult perdere dementat prius. It would really seem, from a study of recent events, that the Chinese Government had fairly lost their heads and were blindly rushing on to certain doom. The empire is at the present moment drifting, its rulers having become politically paralysed and at the same time at issue among themselves. The Emperor KWANG SU, a nerveless and feeble young man, reared in the sickly atmosphere of the harem, cowers beneath the weight of a responsibility his Ministers are no longer ready to assume. The Empress Dowager is probably not inclined to favour a new policy, and perhaps is powerless to propose one. LI HUNG-CHANG, the experienced and astute official who has so often been depended upon to bell the cat, or, in other words, to bamboozle or bluff the Foreign Ministers, is discredited and declining, his prestige a thing of the past, and his vigour fast fading; while his enemies in Peking—a fast increasing host—are ready to hound him down as the chief author of the disasters suffered by his country. Prince KUNG is not only growing old and decrepit, but he represents the ancient order which the mandarins have no idea of changing. The few officials who have any real appreciation of the situation are either powerless to avert coming evils or are too absorbed in their own projects or fads to take any active steps to stay the flood of China's misfortunes. So far from concerting any measures for the future weal of the empire, they appear bent upon involving her in fresh meshes of trouble. If all reports are to be trusted, the Viceroy of the Liang Kiang has been doing his best to incite the Chinese officials and troops in Formosa to declare the independence of the island, while he has been sending, and promising to send, supplies of munitions of war and pledging the Government to furnish both men and *matériel* wherewith to carry on a guerilla war with the Japanese.

On the top of the disorganization which the war has produced other troubles for the Peking Government have been prepared by greedy and self-seeking mandarins. In the great province of Szechuen a plot has been hatched and successfully carried out to efface the Christian Missions there, and the English, French, Canadian, and American mission stations at Chengtu, Kiating, Yochow, Pingshan, Pauming-fu, and Suiking have been wrecked, while those in Suifu, Luchow, and Chungking are or were in jeopardy. Many of the missionaries are missing, but so far, though some are reported to have been ill used and imprisoned, no lives are known to have been sacrificed. The outrages seem to have been planned and carried out by the officials, and the design was so carefully concealed that up to the day on which they were perpetrated the missionaries were living in unsuspecting confidence, and never dreamed of the conspiracy that was hatching against them. Those missions not destroyed were promptly abandoned, and the missionaries fled down the Yangtze to safer quarters. Even at Hankow and Kiukiang, however, a strong anti-foreign feeling prevails, and at Yuling, near the latter place, a riot occurred recently and no steps have been taken to punish the rioters or the instigators of the demonstration. The other day, too, an attack was made on some Roman Catholic missionaries at Tichow, in Anhwei, which has not yet been atoned for. It is reported that the recent concession to French missionaries with regard to the purchase of land in the interior has been nullified by a secret letter from the Tsung-li Yamen to the provincial authorities, declaring that

the French Government had taken advantage of China's helplessness to extort the concession from her and that the officials should disregard it. Whether, if true, this letter had not a good deal to do in provoking the missionary outrages in Szechuen is matter for speculation. At Peking cases of stone-throwing at foreigners are reported, and the province of Hunan is said to be in a very disturbed condition, unsafe for any foreigner to travel in. The same officials who were responsible for the corruption and mismanagement which brought about the collapse of China's defence are still in power, and there appears to be little prospect of their taking the sharp lesson taught them by Japan to heart for future guidance.

The plain and obvious truth is that the ruling class in China have learned nothing from their recent humiliation, and are even seeking how best to turn their very disasters to their own pecuniary account. As an indication of this it is worth notice that in the streets of Nanking highly coloured pictures representing the Japanese in a suppliant attitude at the feet of LI HUNG-CHANG are being hawked for sale. It is an old dodge in China to represent a defeat as victory, and if the people really believe the lie the purpose of the mandarins is efficiently served. It is worse than useless to expect any desire for improvement or reform from such hopelessly fatuous persons. The Treaty Powers will be compelled to resort to force if they hope to obtain any satisfaction from Peking for the wrongs done to the missionaries, the insults offered to peaceful residents, the never ending obstructions placed in the way of legitimate trade. The old methods, namely, meeting argument by argument, and repeating *ad nauseam* the statement of grievance and claim, must be at once and for ever abandoned if Great Britain desires to secure any settlement of the claims of her subjects. The latest outrages afford to Sir NICHOLAS O'CONNOR the very opportunity needed for presenting an ultimatum to the Chinese Government, among the conditions of which, as reparation for the wrongs inflicted on British missions, should be the opening of Yochow, at the mouth of the Tungting Lake, of Changsha, and of Siangtan on the Siang river as treaty ports, both in order to promote an increase of trade and to bring down the pride and insolence of the Hunanese. Also the opening of Chengtu, in Szechuen, and of Wuchow and Shaoking on the West River as Treaty ports, with the right for foreign steamers to navigate the Siang, Upper Yangtze, and West Rivers. This would be at once a benefit to British and Chinese trade and would at the same time be a lesson to the mandarin to cease the pastime of missionary baiting. If, on the other hand, the occasion is allowed to slip by as usual with wholesale concession to mandarin pride and obstinacy, allowing the officials to purchase immunity from the consequences of their acts by a mere monetary indemnity, they will be encouraged to persevere in the same course until some Government, less indolent than Great Britain, takes in hand the education of China, and as a beginning annexes a province or two by way of compensation for the trouble.

BIMETALLISM AND THE RATIO.

According to Secretary CARLISLE, "the wave of silver sentiment has reached formidable proportions, but has about spent itself and is already on the decline." Bimetallists, on the other hand, think the wave is still gathering force and will continue to do so until it finally breaks down the wall of gold monopoly and spends itself in a flood of commercial prosperity. But

the time has arrived when European bimetallics, not forgetting the Eastern Bimetallic League, should declare themselves on the all important question of the ratio. Their American friends boldly advocate the old American ratio of sixteen to one. Are the British and Continental bimetallics prepared to join them in that? If that is the position they intend to take up bimetallicism will never be re-established. For the united Governments of the world, by a stroke of the pen, to depreciate gold to the extent of one half its value would be an incredible act of injustice. The appreciation which has taken place in the value of gold has worked great hardship, but that is now a thing of the past, trade and contracts having for the most part adjusted themselves to the new conditions. Mr. CARLISLE denies that there is any such thing as a debtor class in the United States, for while nearly every one owes some debts, large or small, nearly every one has also some debts owing him; in other words, he is both debtor and creditor. That is equally true of Great Britain, and, in fact, of every civilised country, except in so far as its foreign loans may be concerned; and the injustice that would be done to individuals by a change in the relative values of gold and silver such as is advocated by the American bimetallics may be illustrated by the effect it would have in the field of life insurance. Every man of thrift and prudence insures his life. Say A.B., residing in Hongkong, has insured his life for £1,000. As exchange has declined a larger number of dollars has been required to pay the premium, but the insurer has had the satisfaction of thinking that the sum payable on the policy would be increased in the same proportion if turned into silver, and that the thousand pounds would realise say ten thousand dollars. According to the American bimetallic view, he should receive only five thousand dollars; or, if payment be made in gold, the thousand pounds should be worth, for purchasing purposes, only half its present value. There is no mistake about this, because low prices are complained of, and the object, not of true bimetallics, but of the high-ratioists, is to raise prices, that is, to diminish the purchasing value of money. The Memphis Sound Money Convention, before which Mr. CARLISLE delivered his address, passed a series of resolutions one of which declared that the Convention would rejoice over the adoption of real bimetallicism, but that in view of the continued fluctuations in the price of silver in the open market they realised that it was impossible for the United States independently to adopt a bimetallic standard. A definition of what the Convention meant by "real bimetallicism" would have been useful. It is the contention of bimetallics, and we believe a correct contention, that with the adoption of bimetallicism "the continued fluctuations in the price of silver in the open market" would cease, provided always that a correct ratio were fixed. The ratio of sixteen to one would not, under present circumstances, be correct; except that it was formerly the actual as well as the legal ratio it has no more to recommend it than a ratio of one to one, or ten to one, or fifty to one; it is no longer either an actual or a legal ratio, and has ceased to have any claim to recognition. But there is no good reason why another ratio should not be fixed. The fair and safe course, it seems to us, would be to adopt the present actual ratio as fixed by the market rates for the respective metals, subject to revision at long intervals. No one supposes that, except as a result of legislation, there will be any ap-

preciable rise in silver; on the other hand, it is not so certain that if the metal continues to be boycotted for monetary purposes, there may not be a further considerable fall. What is desired, by Eastern merchants at all events, is stability of exchange, the question of the ratio being with them a secondary consideration, for they know that trade can adapt itself to any ratio. The desired stability of exchange might be attained by taking the average market rates of gold and silver, say for the last year, as the basis of the proposed legal ratio. According to the bimetallic doctrine there could then be no further fall in the value of silver; but there might possibly be a gradual rise, to meet which the ratio could be revised at intervals of sufficient length to prevent the manipulation of the market by speculators. By many of the so-called bimetallics, who have axes of their own to grind, a settlement on these lines would naturally be deemed eminently unsatisfactory; but the men who are working to bring about a rise in the value of silver for the benefit of special interests must not be confounded with the true bimetallics, whose only object is to give the world a reliable international currency and so eliminate from business the gambling element introduced by exchange fluctuations. There are the owners of silver mines, who are naturally eager to see an artificial value given to the output of their mines, no matter what the effect may be on business in general; there are the cotton manufacturers of Lancashire whose idea of bimetallicism seems to be that it would retard the progress of industrial enterprise in India, China, and Japan, and preserve for themselves markets now threatened with invasion by native manufactures; there are the farmers, who think that by playing some trick with the currency Indian wheat might be kept out of England to the advantage of the home grown article; and there are a large number of people in the Far East who would naturally welcome any movement that would make their two shilling dollars worth four shillings. None of these are likely to see their desires realised. If by legislation the dollar could be made worth four shillings, why not, as we have somewhere seen it pertinently asked, make it worth eight shillings, or twelve shillings? Had it not been for the action taken by Germany in 1873 probably silver would have been maintained at the ratio of 15½ to one; but that ratio has been destroyed, and, like Humpty Dumpty, not all the King's horses and all the King's men can set it up again. Bimetallics, if their cause is to succeed, must therefore be content to start afresh on the basis of the actual relative values of the two precious metals.

THE QUEEN'S REIGN.

(20th June.)

On June 20th, 1837, at 2.30 a.m., WILLIAM the Fourth lay dead in royal Windsor. The Archbishop of Canterbury with two other high officials at once drove off for London and reached Kensington Palace about five o'clock. The janitor was sleepy and the magnates had "to knock and ring for a considerable time" before they could even get into the courtyard. Admitted, they found still greater somnolence within, and only after a good deal of trouble did they succeed in rousing the maid of the Princess Victoria. The abigail stoutly refused to disturb her mistress in "such a sweet sleep," whereupon His Grace of Canterbury fired his biggest gun, "We are come on business" of state to the QUEEN, and even Her Ma-

jesty's sleep must give way to that." In five minutes down came the little lady "in a loose white nightgown and shawl, her nightcap thrown off, and her hair falling upon her shoulders, her feet in slippers, tears in her eyes, but perfectly collected and dignified." The King is dead, long live the Queen! Such was the beginning of a reign which completes its fifty-eighth year to-day. It was surely an interesting if not a pretty picture: the young Queen steps into history manifesting simplicity, sincerity, a warm heart, a cool head, and a prompt subordination of self to public duty. What was then the spontaneous issue of a sweet and noble character has by nearly sixty years of daily practice become fixed as unalterable habit, "Long live the Queen!" Length of days such as rarely befalls a monarch has been granted to her. GEORGE the Third alone of British sovereigns has out-reigned VICTORIA, and even in this case the advantage is apparent rather than real, for out of his fifty-nine odd years the last eleven were passed under a Regency necessitated by the stark madness of the King. Louis the Fourteenth of France reigned seventy years, but these included a long minority. Of the present Manchu dynasty KANG CHE ruled and reigned sixty-one years, KIEN LUNG sixty. Our personal knowledge of history supplies no other examples of reigns which exceed the Queen's in length. Splendid as all these undoubtedly were, we doubt if they approach hers in the true elements of greatness.

There are many criteria of the success and splendour of a monarch's rule—the diffusion of happiness among the people, military and naval prestige, the expansion and consolidation of empire, the development of law and social order, scientific discovery, the aggregation of wealth, and, lastly, literary and artistic production. These may all co-exist, and may react on each other indefinitely; when the national life is "full" they are the simultaneous outcome of a vitality and a spiritual force as obscure in their origins as genius is in an individual. The determination of the period of man's greatest happiness has had great attractions for historians: Gibbon placed it between the death of DOMITIAN and the accession of COMMODUS, the reigns of NERVA, TRAJAN, HADRIAN, and the ANTONINES (A.D. 96—A.D. 180). The grave and cautious HALLAM located it in the despised 18th century. Ignoring mankind and confining our attention to the English nation, we deliberately think that its happiness and prosperity up to date have been consummated in the long and happy reign of Queen VICTORIA. Men are as a rule profoundly ignorant of the history of events just preceding and succeeding their own birth; except to greybeards and students the England of 1837 is as unknown as Ruccubah. It is now so far distant as to fall into its proper historical perspective; we can judge it dispassionately without the distortion of party spirit and prejudice. Of the public men who ante-date her Majesty only two survive in honoured and advanced age, Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. VILLIERS. When the student of political or social science turns to the literature of the period or to such books as Mr. BESANT'S "Fifty Years Ago" and Mr. HUMPHRY WARD'S "Reign of Queen Victoria," he comes upon an antique world, practically as dead as the Heptarchy, though far better described. The retrospect leads inevitably to optimism and to the conviction that in no equal period of our national life has progress been so marked and prosperity and happiness so widely diffused.

To what is this "fulness" in the national life due? Some will seek it in moral causes, others in physical. We will not dogmatize,

but we would recall to mind BACON's famous dictum on the mariner's compass, gun-powder, and printing. "No empire," says the sage, "sect, or star seems to have exercised greater power or influence over human affairs than these mechanical inventions." This may give a cold douche to the moralist and a shock to the followers of CARLYLE, but steady vision will tend only to confirm the great Verulam's view. JAMES WATT added a fourth "invention;" his application of steam to fabrication and its subsequent subjection to the purposes of land and sea travel have completely changed the destinies of the British race, and reacted on the world at large. Facility of manufacture and travel brought in its train sequences which no man could ever have foreseen. Time honoured prejudices, methods, and laws disappeared as if by magic the moment men began to mix freely and to know each other. Our whole systems of education, commerce, law, government, and colonization were in turn examined, found wanting, and reformed. When one reflects that in one single reign, Victoria, New Zealand, Queensland, the Dominion of Canada, Hongkong, and the China trade have been created; that the Indian Empire has been consolidated, the African extended, Ireland profoundly changed, the army and navy completely reconstructed; that the ancient constitution of the country has been modified out of all recognition; one is lost as to the limits of the modern conditions of life. These changes, vital as they are, are but a fraction of the sum total of national activity. Science, in the doctrines of the conservation of energy and evolution, both primarily English triumphs, has seen the greatest discoveries since the time of NEWTON. A literature second to that of the Elizabethan age in poetry alone has given quite another bias to the national mind and conscience. A fabulous commerce has been created and an aggregate of wealth such as the world has never seen has been amassed. Crime has been lessened, education spread, diseases formerly fatal rendered innocuous, domestic comfort and the amenities of life both increased in quantity and refined in quality. Even poverty, that greatest curse of social life, is now being attacked and the question of the better distribution of wealth has assumed the paramount place in public attention. Our loyalty is not so blind as to cajole us into the belief that her Majesty has been the cause of this progress. It will, however, be historically associated with her name, and in a manner she is not to be personally disassociated from it. The purity and splendour of her court, her tact, her intolerance of intrigue, her personal example and womanly sympathy, her steady patronage of everything tending to social improvement, have had boundless influence on our public and social life. It is to the Queen's personal merits largely due that the British Empire still exhibits the most astounding of political paradoxes—an ardent democracy and an ancient throne. During her long reign she has seen nearly every government in the world convulsed with revolution and has also witnessed many a throne entirely submerged in political cyclone. Her own has been unique in escaping storm and stress and is at this moment more secure in the good will and esteem of her people than ever it was when strengthened by absolutism and supported by the sanctity of religion. Her Majesty is happily yet hale and vigorous: we heartily hope she will be spared a goodly few years to see the greater consummation of a reign as illustrious as it has been long, as honourable to herself as it has been beneficial to her Empire and subjects.

A COMMON CURRENCY FOR THE FAR EAST.

The question of the currency has recently been under the consideration of the Chambers of Commerce at Saigon, Hanoi, and Haiphong. Like ourselves, the neighbouring French possessions, which rely largely on the Mexican dollar, have been suffering from a scarcity of the circulating medium, and the Government has asked the various Chambers of Commerce to express their views as to how the crisis might best be met. The circumstances of Tonkin and of Saigon do not appear to be identical, the Japanese yen circulating in the latter but not in the former. All the Chambers are agreed, however, that the standard coins, whatever they may be, should be equivalent to and interchangeable with those of Hongkong. This appears to be a very sensible suggestion and if any official proposition to that effect should be made by the French Government it is to be hoped it will receive favourable consideration and that it may be found possible to adopt it. Trade would be facilitated if the currencies of Japan and the British and French possessions of the Far East were made interchangeable, by an agreement similar to that which exists between the states of the Latin Union, and if China and the Philippines joined in the agreement so much the better. So far as Hongkong is concerned we can conceive of no objection to the scheme. As it is we have a foreign coin, the Mexican dollar, as our standard, and this is to continue even after the introduction of the new British dollar, which is to circulate concurrently with it. We might as well have Spanish, French, Chinese, and Japanese coins as the Mexican, provided they were all of the same intrinsic value and all equally reliable. The Japanese yen is already legal tender in the Straits Settlements, though not in Hongkong. Any sentimental preference there may be for the Queen's head on our coins would carry small weight as against the great practical convenience of one common currency for the whole of the Far East, and the slight profit to be made by the Indian mints on the coinage of the British dollar, should that profit be at all endangered, is a trifle not worth consideration. Under such an agreement, however, the chances are that the circulation of the British dollar would be increased rather than diminished. It is doubtful whether Japan would be willing to sanction the circulation of any but her national coins in her own territory, and China and the Philippines are for the present entirely out of the question. We see no good reason, however, why France and England should not enter into an agreement for the concurrent circulation of their respective standard coins in the territories of each other, and other states might join the Union hereafter.

THE PUBLICATION OF PLAGUE STATISTICS.

A correspondent, whose letter will be found in another column, takes exception to the publication of plague statistics in the press, on account of the injury caused to the trade of the colony by the neighbouring Spanish and French ports bringing into force their quarantine regulations as a consequence of the publication of these particulars. We can well understand the feeling of those who are directly affected by these absurd regulations, but on the whole we are inclined to think that more harm would be done by a policy of secrecy than by one of openness. As soon as it became known that plague had again made its appearance in the colony alarmist rumours began to

circulate, and had the actual facts not been published those rumours would no doubt have grown, as rumours generally do, and the injury to the trade of the colony would have been probably not less than it is now, while the disquietude caused in the colony itself would have been much greater. Either concealing the true state of affairs or openly stating it appears to be attended with some evil, but all things considered the latter course appears to us to be the better one. As a matter of general principle, nowhere and under no circumstances ought any secrecy to be observed with regard to the public health. While absurd quarantine regulations are maintained in neighbouring ports, however, it may be argued with some show of reason that it is a mistake to blazon abroad every sporadic case of contagious disease that may occur. In that view we would be disposed as a general rule to concur, but the present case is exceptional. The plague of last year directed to Hongkong the attention of the whole world, and had the rumour gone abroad, without authentic statistics, that plague had again broken out in the colony, it would have been generally supposed that the state of things this year was much the same as last. The publication of the official statistics appears on the whole, therefore, to be a protection rather than an injury to the colony. It is unfortunate if our Spanish and French neighbours are inclined to doubt the authenticity of the statistics and to suppose that if ten cases are admitted probably a hundred have occurred. Such a suspicion could only be suggested by the knowledge of what they themselves would do under like circumstances. It is difficult to suggest how the suspicion could be met, but we cannot suppose it would be disposed of by suppressing the statistics altogether, for in that case rumour would probably be accepted and would make the matter still worse.

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH FORMOSA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

TAINANFOO, 17th June.

Affairs here assumed such a serious aspect on Thursday afternoon, the 13th inst., owing to the threatening attitude of the Black Flags, that Captain Winsloe, of H.M.S. *Spartan*, decided to send to Hongkong for assistance. Accordingly arrangements were made to despatch the steamer *Wenchow*, in port at the time, to Amoy with telegrams for the Commodore, and she left on Friday evening, returning here on Sunday morning. All feel under great obligation to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, for allowing the *Wenchow* to proceed. On Sunday morning the strain was much intensified by a demand from the rebels that the British guard should be withdrawn. Without more assistance it is doubtful if the fifty odd men in the settlement could have held their own against an organised attack, and the situation became very grave. To the satisfaction of everyone H.M.S. *Rainbow* appeared on the horizon coming at full speed, and she dropped anchor at 3 p.m., just forty-five hours from the time the *Wenchow* left this for Amoy, which speaks well for all concerned in this work of relief. Great excitement prevailed when it was reported that the forts were clearing for action, and that the *Rainbow* and *Spartan* were both ready to reply if attacked. Mr. Hurst, H.M. Consul, promptly interviewed an officer in charge of a detachment of Black Flags, who said that the *Rainbow* was a Japanese and that they were determined to fire. On receiving a guarantee from the Consul that such was not the case, a messenger was despatched to the fort with instructions to stay proceedings. General Liu was then notified that the marines could not be withdrawn and that further reinforcements would be landed. Just before dark, in order to avoid too much display, 60 marines were landed under the command of Captains Shubrik and Brabazon, and 25 blue jackets under the command of Lieut. Grouse. It was feared that resistance would be offered, but all were safely landed on the bund by eight

o'clock and billeted in different parts of the settlement.

Utter confusion prevails and the steamers *Whampoa*, *Wendow*, and *Bygdo* are all detained owing to the scarcity of boats and coolies to work cargo. It is hoped that actual danger is now past, but, of course, there will be further trouble when the Japanese arrive. The fort fired at a Japanese cruiser last week, without taking effect, and it appears certain that Liu is determined to oppose the invading force when they come to take possession.

All ladies and children are on board the steamer *Bygdo* in the roadstead.

ANPING, 18th June.

Matters are in *statu quo*, and it is thought that the naval demonstration has had the desired effect, and that Liu will be careful not to make further trouble. The Marines and Bluejackets are a splendid lot of men and every possible precaution is being taken to repulse a sudden attack of the Black Flags. Ugly rumours are in the air as to the difficulty of financing, and it is believed that Liu will run short of money, unless he is supported by the wealthy people, who have already subscribed largely and are now beginning to hang back.

ANPING, 19th June.

The position is practically unchanged. Every precaution is being taken against a sudden attack on the settlement. The *Spartan*, *Rainbow*, and *Redbreast* are all cleared for action with their guns bearing on the forts. Liu's finances, it is reported, are weakening. There is a very anti-foreign feeling amongst his troops. It would appear certain that the present condition of affairs cannot possibly last, and if the Japanese do not arrive soon, it may be necessary for the British forces to take the initiative.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Amoy, 18th June.

The steamer *Bygdo*, which has just arrived from Anping, brought sixteen cabin passengers, mostly ladies, and about a hundred and fifty deck passengers. There were no signs of the approach of the Japanese when the *Bygdo* left. According to a Tamsui letter, they were to have started overland to Tainanfu on the 14th inst.

A Japanese man-of-war was fired at a few days ago by the fort at a place called Tang-kang, the vessel replying with four shots, which killed over ten people. The remainder of the garrison abandoned the fort and fled towards the interior. This fort was not garrisoned by the Black Flags, but by natives.

By telegram received by the Naval Authorities from Formosa on Thursday morning via Amoy, the situation in Anping remains unchanged. H.M.S. *Redbreast* having coaled at Amoy was to return to Anping yesterday evening.

Several missionary ladies left Tainanfu in the *Bygdo* and landed at Amoy, while the daughters of Dr. Myers, of Tainanfu, left that port in H.M.S. *Tweed*. Many refugee soldiers also left in the *Bygdo* and were conveyed to Amoy.

EVENTS IN NORTH FORMOSA.

[FROM AN AMOY CORRESPONDENT.]

AMOY, 14th June.

After taking possession of the forts at Tamsui the Japanese blew up the torpedoes, one after the other. The sight was rather a fine one, columns of water being raised to a great height. After each explosion there was a rush of hundreds of sampans to the spot to pick up the dead or stunned fish.

About 7,000 odd soldiers have already returned to Amoy and it is estimated that there are 19,000 more at Tamsui, awaiting steamers. These do not seem to have participated in the looting of Taipei. Perhaps they were not on the spot, or arrived too late. At all events, they are said to be all penniless and unable to pay their passage from the island. The Japanese are feeding them and have decided to employ a few transports to convey them to the nearest ports, Foochow and Haitan Island being mentioned as the places to which they are to be sent.

The *Atlantic* left Singapore on the 14th of March and arrived at the Woosung Spit Buoy on the 16th inst., after a passage of 94 days. She ran short of water on the way up and put into Amoy.

A DIARY OF RECENT EVENTS IN NORTH FORMOSA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

TWATUTIA, 8th June.

The Japanese force got possession of Kelung May 31st. The forts at Kelung offered hardly any resistance to the landing party, but the Cantonese stationed on the ridge at the back of Kelung fought well and stood their ground till the storming party came within 50 metres. Then they fled, and passing through Taipeifoo and Twatutia with hardly a stop arrived at Hobé, where they await shipment to the mainland.

The Japanese have lost no time in advancing, and are now in possession of Taipei and Hobé, and with detachments at outlying towns. All the wires are cut, and some of the railway torn up, so communication is difficult.

The following extract from a Twatutia diary may be of some general interest—

TWATUTIA DIARY.

June 4.—It was surmised by foreigners that the Governor was to attempt escape to the German steamer *Arthur* at Hobé. This steamer had orders to have steam for daylight. That night his Excellency gave his bodyguard \$100 each, and about 2 a.m. came down with a few attendants and got into launch at Tait's jetty.

June 5.—At 3 a.m., or an hour afterwards, the yamen burst into flames, a grand sight from our roofs, with a continuous roar of flames and splutter of exploding cartridges. From 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. a continuous stream of soldiers passed along our Bund from Taipei and from the railway depot, the latter from the front at Kelung. These were Anhwei, Canton, and local men. They had just looted the Treasury of \$900,000. There was some murder and much fighting and stealing among themselves, and one soldier with \$500 who got a little detached from his pals was killed and robbed by our local looters just at the Club steps. The soldiers seemed quite cowed as against foreigners, who were, however, quite prepared for them had they been of another mind. About 4,000 passed along the Bund, and got boats to Hobé. With the departure of all officials, followed by the soldiers, the innings of the looters began and the first victim was the arsenal, which took several thousand men all day to empty. A more heterogeneous lot of spoil was never seen, Gatlings, Krupps, Mauser rifles, Winchesters, cartridges, iron, copper, tin, bits of machinery of all sizes and shapes came streaming through the town, and the market for Krupp mountain guns fell to \$2 and for Winchesters to 20 cents. It was impossible for foreigners to interfere with this; their attitude all through was to defend foreign property, certainly not to take up outgels on behalf of a Government that had deserted their post in the most dastardly manner and given up life and property to all the perils of anarchy. Towards night the looters retired, wearied out, but killing and robbing went on in the streets, and towards midnight a lurid glow and horrid sulphureous smell showed that the powder factory was on fire. Fearing the same might happen to the powder magazine, the marines spent part of the night in the open.

June 6.—At 6 a.m. we were startled by a severe explosion, and a brown column of smoke 500 feet high appeared in the direction of the powder magazine. This was the end of that structure; some 100 or more Chinese were killed; but there must have been less powder in store than we thought, as a few broken windows comprises the damage to Twatutia itself. This morning the looters turned their attention to the saw mills, building yard, and railway plant, gutting everything. Messrs. Ohly, Thompson, and Davidson started along the Kelung line to look for the Japanese army. Meanwhile news spread that during the night some thousands of Foochow, Canton, and local desperadoes had organized an attack on the foreign hong, and as it was likely enough they might fire the back streets everybody was on the alert; the Bund was cleared of boats so that the machine gun on the launch could have free play, the marines and sailors patrolled the city at short intervals, and all the hong kept watchful guard. Of course rifles were in great supply, and the Chinese blazed away all night to show the enemy they were ready; perhaps a few shots were fired by the enemy, but they never appeared. At midnight the party who went in search of the Japanese returned with the welcome news

that 500 Japanese were three miles off and would be in at daylight. The Japanese, it appears, were ignorant of the state of affairs here, and would not have been in for two days had they not been communicated with.

June 7.—At daylight 500 Japanese marched into Taipeifoo, followed at ten o'clock by some 1,000 more. They were very tired, and being rigged in thick winter clothes suffered much from the heat, but they lost no time in restoring order and putting the town under police supervision.

Meanwhile, there were lively times in Hobé, where most of the retreating soldiers had accumulated. The Governor was supposed to be on board the German steamer *Arthur*, also the *Haikwan* with some 11s. 30,000, which the soldiery thought should be applied to pay their arrears. The *Arthur* was well peppered with rifles, and the forts threatened to fire on any steamer attempting to leave, and did fire on launches taking cargo to outside steamers. Finally the south fort shelled the *Arthur*, hitting her thrice, killing and wounding nine men. The German gun-vessel *Illis* replied, and with three well placed shells killed some fifteen Chinese, and silenced the fort. Then the soldiers in the other forts were paid to give up the breech pieces of their guns, which they did, and then proceeded to loot the forts, one of which blew up, killing a lot of men. The soldiery are giving much trouble, clamouring for food and passage to the mainland, while there are no steamers to take them; many have given up their arms and are quartered in the Douglas S. S. Co.'s compound and other places, and if only transports would come to take them away the episode would be over.

Our gallant defenders, the German sailors under Lieutenant Timme, and the British marines under Captain Shubrik, had organized such a perfect system of defence, and were so untiring and energetic in patrol work, that any serious attack on foreign property was hardly to be feared; our danger was fire, and our escape from this invincible enemy is entirely due to the presence of the foreign force, who, although perhaps disappointed at not having a fight, deserve our praise and thanks for preventive work that has saved many lives and much valuable property.

The Japanese have already sent detachments towards Hobé and down south, where the railway line has been taken up. The Chinese accept them with the greatest apathy, and are only surprised at the diminutive stature of their conquerors. Indeed, after our object lesson in anarchy, the government of the devil himself was sure of a gracious reception.

SUPREME COURT.

21st June.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE THE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

IN THE MATTER OF CHAN YAN U.

EX PARTE CHU U AND OTHERS, CREDITORS.

His Lordship said—This is an application under sect. 19 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance No. 20 of 1891. The Court is asked to adjudicate the debtor Chan Yan U bankrupt on the ground that a receiving order was made and that the creditors at the adjourned first meeting by resolution resolved that the debtor be adjudicated bankrupt. The receiving order was made on 17th May and it was then stated by Mr. Ewens, the solicitor who applied for it, that the assets would be sufficient to pay a dividend of 50 per cent. It seems, since the receiving order was made, the debtor having obtained protection from an execution creditor had got all he wanted and has rendered no assistance whatever and has furnished no statement of his affairs, although requested to do so. The official receiver, moreover, has filed an affidavit that he believes the debtor has absconded with a view of avoiding examination in respect of his affairs. In these circumstances I avail myself of the power conferred by section 24 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance to issue a warrant for the arrest of the debtor and the seizure of any books, papers, money, and goods in his possession, to be safely kept until such time as the Court may order. I am afraid it will turn out that these proceedings in Bankruptcy have been taken with a view to defeat a judgment creditor rather than to carry out the true intent of the

Bankruptcy Ordinance, to secure a fair distribution of substantial assets among the creditors generally. The Court is informed by Mr. Ewens there are debts due to the debtor and that he has property in China. Experience shows the latter is seldom available for Hongkong creditors in these cases, though, of course, the Consul can be communicated with and will doubtless do his best. However, under section 19, I seem now to have no option. I therefore adjudge the debtor bankrupt and appoint Mr. Seth as trustee. I can only hope the 50 per cent. dividend will be available. Had I, at the time, doubted the accuracy of that forecast I am not sure the receiving order would have been made at all in this case.

24th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE HON. W. M. GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

DEATH OF A DEFENDANT.

An action in which Tsang Lai Woon was the plaintiff and Mrs. Caldwell the defendant was to have been heard yesterday, but owing to the death of Mrs. Caldwell the case was held over. The suit was to recover 24,000 for breach of covenant relating to the sale of certain property, which belonged to the defendant. Some time ago Mr. D. E. Caldwell, formerly a solicitor practising in Hongkong, made arrangements to sell the property to the plaintiff, who paid the money to Mr. Caldwell. Mrs. Caldwell, however, refused to part with the property, and as Mr. Caldwell had left the colony the plaintiff sought to recover the price paid for the property from the defendant. Neither party was represented, and the Registrar formally notified the death of the defendant to his Lordship.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday. The Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. J. A. Lawson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Westcott (Acting Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.

A report was read concerning the insanitary condition of certain dwellings at Mong Kok Tsui, and as they were unfit for human habitation it was resolved, on the motion of the President, to give the owners of the property a Chinese month's notice to remove the dwellings.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF CONNAUGHT HOUSE.

A letter was read from Messrs. Leigh and Orange asking that the closets at Connaught House might be allowed to remain as they are until new ones, which had been ordered from England, arrived.

The President said that the Board had been trying for three or four years to get Connaught House into proper sanitary condition. Under the circumstances he moved that a concession of four months be granted to the owners.

Carried.

DECREASE OF PLAGUE AT SWATOW AND MACAO.

Mr. Henry Layng, medical officer to H.M. Consulate at Swatow, reported as follows to the Colonial Secretary respecting the bubonic plague at Swatow:—"I am pleased to state that the death rate from bubonic plague is much diminished; the decrease has been most marked once May 25th. From May 25th to June 3rd I have heard of only nine deaths. I trust that it will shortly disappear entirely, as on June 1st and June 3rd I could hear of no fresh case and no death."

On the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON it was resolved to ask the Government to remove the restrictions on the passenger traffic from Swatow.

The Colonial Secretary forwarded letters from H.M. Vice-Consul at Macao concerning the plague in that colony. The number of deaths from the 7th to the 17th inst. inclusive was 86; 44 of these occurred in the Chinese

hospital at Lappa, but most of the patients treated there contracted the disease in Macao.

The following table, compiled by Mr. E. T. C. Werner, Vice-Consul, shows the number of deaths on each day:—

June 7th (noon) to June 8th (noon).....	18
" 8th " " 9th "	16
" 9th " " 10th "	7
" 10th " " 11th "	6
" 11th " " 12th "	7
" 12th " " 13th "	6
" 13th " " 14th "	5
" 14th " " 15th "	4
" 15th " " 16th "	12
" 16th " " 17th "	5
.....	86

The following is the return of deaths at Macao from 23rd May to 7th June:—

May 23th (noon) to May 29th (noon).....	18
" 29th " " 30th "	16
" 30th " " 31st "	21
" 31st " " June 1st "	10
June 1st " " 2nd "	20
" 2nd " " 3rd "	15
" 3rd " " 4th "	11
" 4th " " 5th "	12
" 5th " " 6th "	11
" 6th " " 7th "	15
.....	148

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 8th June showed a death rate of 18.7 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 13.4 during the corresponding week last year.

The death rate for the week ended 15th June was 19.1 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 16.9 for the corresponding week last year.

THE DRY EARTH SYSTEM OF CONSERVANCY.

The Acting Medical Officer (Dr. Westcott) wrote as follows concerning the application of the dry earth system of conservancy to the latrines open to the public in Victoria:—"To the President, Sanitary Board. 1.6.95. Sir.—Complaints having been made to me concerning nuisances caused by public latrines, I have the honour to submit for the consideration of the Board a proposal for the adoption of a dry earth system for the abatement of such nuisances. The arguments which have been brought against it are—(1.) That suitable dry earth cannot be obtained here. (2.) That the quantity required would be so great that the cost of transport would be very great. (3.) That it would cause a loss of revenue to the colony. The soil here consists of clay and quartz which, when dried, powdered, and sifted, forms a perfect deodorant, and has been in use in the military barracks for many years with good results. I do not think the loss to the colony would be great, as the system should apply only to the public latrines. Taking the soil from the public latrines as one fourth of the whole, revenue would still be derivable from three fourths. As to the cost. The army contractor would supply dry earth, keep the buckets clean, and remove the soil at 5 cents per seat per month, but of course more favourable terms might be obtained, and this is mentioned merely to give an idea of the probable cost. I venture to suggest a trial of the system in the present Government latrines, with a view to the consideration of its adaptability for general use in the future."

The Secretary appended the following minute:—

This proposal opens up a question that was pretty well thrashed out some fifteen years ago. Dr. Westcott's opinion regarding the properties of our red earth is opposite to most authorities on this method of conservancy. His estimate of the cost is not nearly comprehensive enough.

Minute by the Acting Colonial Surgeon—There is the difficulty of insuring a constant supply of suitable dry earth. At least 1½ lbs. should be thrown on the excreta as often as the closet is used.

It was decided to hold over the report until the expiration of the present contract.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

The Japanese of Thursday Island, we learn from the *Northern Territory Times*, organized a big demonstration on 24th May to celebrate the defeat of the Chinese in the late war. The proceedings included a grand march round, headed by the local brass band, followed by a theatrical representation during the evening of different striking episodes of the war.

PLAGUE PRECAUTIONS.

The following report on certain steps taken to prevent the spread of bubonic plague in Victoria is published in the *Gazette*:—

Sanitary Board Room,

Hongkong, 14th June, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour, by direction of the President, to transmit you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the enclosed report having reference to certain steps which have been taken to prevent the spread of Bubonic Plague in Victoria.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

HUGH MCCALLUM, Secretary.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart,
Colonial Secretary.

Sanitary Board Room,

Hongkong, 7th June, 1895.

Sir,—Referring to the letter of the Assistant Sanitary Superintendent of the 3rd ultimo setting forth the steps that he had taken in pursuance of the instructions of the then Captain Superintendent of Police conveyed to him verbally immediately after the first case of plague had been reported, we have now the honour to submit the following report for the information of the Board.

SPECIAL SANITARY SERVICE.

House-to-house Visitation.

2.—In the attached schedule A will be found a statement of the number of houses visited by the 5 sections of police and military told off for this special service. The total number of inspections made by the whole detachment, consisting of 24 police and 15 soldiers, was 41,646.

3.—The examination of houses has gone on with great smoothness and regularity. Throughout, the attitude of the public has been friendly and the conduct of those engaged on the service good. The special instructions which have from time to time been issued to the police sergeant or constable in charge of sections have been promptly and intelligently complied with.

4.—In several instances application has been made by Chinese householders for their houses to be exempted from the inspection on the ground that an invasion of the privacy of their dwellings would be objectionable as in cases of sickness after child-birth, &c. In such cases the searching parties have been promptly directed to omit the inspection. No requests for exemption on trivial grounds have been received.

5.—Since the 17th of May, in consequence of certain confidential information communicated to the Board regarding the existence of plague in the neighbouring Portuguese colony of Macao, a special watch has been kept on all Chinese passengers arriving from Canton. The captains and officers of the river steamers who have been communicated with have expressed their willingness and intention to do everything in their power to meet the possibility of cases of plague arriving here from Macao via Canton. We are informed that suspicious cases of sickness are promptly rejected at Canton; and in the event of the officers observing while en route any sick persons who may have escaped detection before the departure of the steamer, it has been arranged for the police sergeant on duty at the wharf here to be acquainted of the fact the moment the steamer arrives.

6.—Another measure in the nature of a secret service has been adopted for the detection of imported cases, the details of which it is undesirable, in the interests of the public service, to disclose.

Latrine Service.

7.—The order of the Board with regard to the disinfection of the night-soil in the latrines open to the public has been enforced to the utmost possible extent. Three soldiers were detailed for this service to assist the inspectors in charge of the health districts. 10,000 lbs. of chlorinated lime have been expended during the month for this purpose alone. At first there was some reluctance on the part of the keepers to comply with the order; but in only one instance did it become necessary to have recourse to legal proceedings, viz., in the case of the Gough Street latrine the keeper of which was fined \$25 by the presiding Magistrate.

Disinfection of Houses, &c.

8.—The four soldiers originally detailed for this service in the event of the plague obtaining a firm hold in the colony were subsequently told off to strengthen the house-to-house visitation

parties and to assist the inspectors in the work of their districts.

9.—The Board having approved of a reduction from the 1st instant of the number of police and military engaged on special sanitary service, nine men of the Rifle Brigade and nine European and Asiatic police were withdrawn from that date. The addition of chlorinated lime to the night-soil in public latrines has been discontinued, but as it was considered desirable to maintain for the present the use of this disinfectant on a modified scale, a number of earthenware pots containing small quantities of the powder moistened with water have been distributed in all the latrines open to the public in accordance with the recommendations of the Board.

10.—The following are the details of the new scheme for house-to-house visitation by a party consisting of 3 European police constables, 12 Chinese police constables, 5 non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Engineers and 7 non-commissioned officers and men of the Rifle Brigade. The detachment now works in 3 sections instead of 5 as formerly, each section being in charge of a European police constable. The extent and nature of the duties of these sections are set forth in the attached copies of the instructions handed over to the three constables, detailed to take charge, on the night of the 1st inst.

11.—Only five cases of plague are known to have occurred since the day on which the first case was reported, viz., the 29th of April. Not a single case has been reported since the 10th of May. Particulars of these five cases will be found in schedule B.

12.—Fourteen persons from infected premises were provided with accommodation in the "marriage" boats or native marine hotels hired for this service and anchored at the back of Stonecutters' island. No sickness developed among those segregated. On the 8th of May the last batch was released.

Mezzanine Floors and Cubicles.

13.—In schedule C will be found a statement of the progress that has been made in the eight Health Districts of the City of Victoria in enforcing compliance with the provisions of section 7 of Ordinance 15 of 1894. In all 1,705 notices to remove either the cubicles or cocklofts have been served. A very large number of petitions for permission to allow cubicles and cocklofts to co-exist, which the Board has power to give, have been received. A considerable time must necessarily elapse before the law on this subject has been fully enforced throughout the city. In many instances where compliance with the law will involve considerable structural alterations the parties concerned have placed the matter in the hands of their architects.

Basements.

14.—Notices in writing of intention to take legal proceedings after a stated time have been served on the actual tenants, householders and owners or 95 basement rooms in illegal occupation as dwellings. The exact situation of each basement is set forth in schedule D. This return does not include a large number of basements which when first inspected were found to be inhabited and were subsequently vacated after the law had been explained to the occupants and a verbal warning conveyed. A complete descriptive return of all basements in the city and the uses to which they are applied is in preparation.—We have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servants,

WM. C. H. HASTINGS.

Acting Capt. Supt. of Police,

W. EDWARD CROW,

Assistant Sanitary Superdt.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

On the 11th inst. Dr. A. de Flesch, Acting Consul for Austro-Hungary at Yokohama, while driving along the Bluff road met with a serious accident, through his dog-cart's axle cap striking against an electric-light pole. The shock of the impact caused the shafts of the vehicle to snap off short, and Dr. de Flesch leaped to the ground still holding the reins. The frightened horse broke into a gallop and before his driver could release his hold of the reins he was dragged down and along the road. Dr. de Flesch's wounds are confined to the left cheek, which is badly cut and bruised. The injured man was conveyed to the General Hospital as quickly as possible, where his wounds were speedily attended to.

THE PLAGUE.

Sanitary Board,
24th June, 1895.

The following are the statistics of cases of plague from June 14th to noon this day:—

No. of cases reported	13
" " deaths	11
" " cases under treatment *	2

* Admitted during the past 24 hours.

Of these two new cases, one is a former inmate of No. 10, Heung Lane, who has been in segregation on a marriage boat since the 16th inst. The second case is from No. 235, Queen's Road West.

The total number of deaths from plague since the 29th of April, the day on which the first case was reported, is sixteen.

W. EDWARD CROW,
Assistant Sanitary Superintendent.

PRESENTATION TO INSPECTOR MANN.

On Wednesday Inspector Mann was presented with a handsome gold watch by the officers and men of the Hongkong Police Force. Inspector Mann has been in the force sixteen years, and on Thursday went home on leave, and will not return, Mr. Duggan, the paymaster, made the presentation, and said that the Captain Superintendent had intended to make the presentation, but his duties prevented him from being present; and, unfortunately, Chief Inspector Corcoran was too ill to attend. Mr. Duggan said he was perhaps the oldest member of the force, and could bear testimony to the good fellowship and good feeling that had existed between Inspector Mann and the other members of the force. Inspector Mann had done his duty well; he had also participated in the force's triumphs; he had been captain of the shooting team on several occasions, and the force was sorry to lose him. Everyone trusted that he would enjoy good health in his own country, and the same good wishes were expressed towards Mrs. Mann and the family. Mr. Duggan handed the watch to Mr. Mann, and read the following inscription upon it:—Presented to Inspector A. Mann by the officers and men of the Hongkong Police Force as a token of their esteem and respect on his departure for home on leave, with the intention of retiring from the Police Force after sixteen years' service, 20th June, 1895." Mr. Duggan also handed a box of table rings for Mrs. Mann.

Inspector Mann returned thanks for the handsome presents and for the kind wishes that had been expressed towards him.

Inspector A. Mann, who, as already mentioned, was the recipient of several testimonials on his retirement from the Police Force of the colony, left by the mail steamer on Thursday. His comrades thought it a fit occasion to

Up and gie him a blaw, a blaw,
So they marched him doon to the Praya wa'
Wi a hundred pipers an' a' an' a'

Well, not exactly the historical hundred, but they had six with drum-accompaniment.

HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Hongkong Electric Company, Limited, was held at noon on Saturday at the office of Messrs Gibb, Livingston and Co. There were present Mr. H. L. Dalrymple (Chairman), Hon. C. P. Chater, Mr. J. Kramer, Hon. J. J. Bell Irving (Directors), W. H. Wickham (Manager), C. F. Harton (Secretary), G. H. Potts, J. S. Perry, C. S. Sharp, R. H. R. Burder, W. Howell, E. Terry, W. S. Bailey, and W. Jackson.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for the past two weeks, and with your permission I propose that they be taken as read. The gross earnings show an increase of \$23,000 on last year's statement, but this includes an amount of \$5,000 brought forward from 1894 on account of installations in hand and uncompleted, thus making the net increase on the year's working \$18,000. Of this latter sum, \$7,000 is accounted for by the increased supply of currents for incandescent lights; and the balance, \$11,000 for installations and other works executed. Against the increased amount received for incandescent lighting we have to place an increase in the item for fuel, amounting to some \$3,700. Coal

constitutes the most important item of additional expenditure as compared with the previous year, and this was brought about chiefly, as you are all fully aware, by the greatly enhanced cost of this article. We have been able to renew our present coal contracts on more favourable terms, and we trust that in spite of the large consumption necessary to meet the increased demand for incandescent lighting, our next twelve months' coal bill will be smaller in proportion to our revenue from arc and incandescent lighting. As I have already stated, the earnings from installation and other work are \$6,000 more than during the previous year, but the profit derived from these sources is about the same. As mentioned by me this time last year, in order to meet our customers' wishes to the fullest extent and to hasten if possible the extension of electric lighting, the Company is following the policy of making little or no profit on the work of installation, the charges for work done and material supplied being cut down as nearly as possible to cost price. Several of our contracts entered into in 1893 have resulted in a small loss owing to exchange, which I regret to say materially increases the cost of many of our supplies. In spite of this, however, we have been able to still further reduce the price of incandescent lamps. The result of the year's working shows that the number of incandescent lamps has been increased from 1,400 to 2,400, and the revenue derived from the sale of the current for the last month is nearly double that for the corresponding month of last year, whilst the running expenses are very little higher. To obtain these results I am of opinion that your Directors were fully justified in making some sacrifice. In the item for repairs you will notice an increase of some \$400 over the 1894 accounts, which is mainly due to damage caused by the typhoons last September and October. I think that, all things considered, the Company got very well out of their troubles on those occasions, and I may be allowed to say here that the working staff all round displayed great energy and promptness in executing the necessary repairs. The balance overdrawn at the Company's bankers has been further reduced, and I hope that in our future accounts the item will disappear. Profit and loss account shows a balance at credit of \$16,406.82. You are aware that so far nothing has been written off the cost of plant, and your Directors have deemed it prudent to write \$10,000 off plant account and carry forward the balance to a new account. This course, we feel sure, will be considered a wise one by shareholders generally. Our property and plant have been maintained in thorough order, and your Directors have much pleasure in testifying to the zeal and excellent work of your Manager and of his staff generally during the past twelve months. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to afford any further information in regard to the affairs of the Company so far as is in my power, consistent with the welfare of the business.

Mr. BAILEY—Do the Directors receive any remuneration?

The CHAIRMAN—We have had none for the last five years.

Mr. BAILEY—I hope the Company will soon be in a position to afford it.

The CHAIRMAN—We shall be very happy to find ourselves justified in taking it.

Mr. BAILEY—The accounts show \$2,000 for office expenses; does that include the General Managers?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. BAILEY—There was an increase in the price of coal during the war between China and Japan; what proportion does that show to the total?

The CHAIRMAN—Practically the increase amounted to a dollar a ton, average.

Mr. BAILEY—This \$952 for repairs, is that ordinary or extraordinary expenditure?

The CHAIRMAN—A portion of it is extraordinary—about \$400 for damage done by typhoons; but naturally, with a plant of \$170,000 or \$180,000 value, there must be some current repairs required, and I think \$500 or \$600 is not much.

There being no other questions the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. BURDER seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the appoint-

ment of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving as director in place of the Hon. J. J. Keswick be confirmed.

Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded.

Carried.

Mr. POTTS proposed the re-election of Messrs. Dalrymple and Kramer, retiring directors.

Mr. PERRY seconded.

Carried.

Mr. BURDER proposed the re-election of Messrs G. Stewart and J. C. Peter as auditors.

Mr. PERRY seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting. I am much obliged to you for your attendance, and I hope that when we meet again next year we shall be able to show you even better results.

THE RAUB AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the annual report of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited:—

The Directors present herewith the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ending 31st March last, Singapore accounts to 28th February being incorporated.

The Manager's report enclosed deals exhaustively with the work carried on at the mines during the period under review, and speaks for itself. Larger gold returns were anticipated, but unforeseen difficulties, especially those caused by an abnormally wet season, have occasionally delayed operations. All development has been aid for from the proceeds of the mines.

It is intended to construct and equip a light railway so as to connect the mines with the battery, thus superseding the present mode of carriage by bullock drays.

The Board will at the annual meeting recommend the reduction of their number to four.

In accordance with the articles of association all the directors, Messrs. De Burgh Perse, Robert Philp, Maurice Hume Black, Frederick Johnson, and George Frederick Scott, and the auditors, Messrs W. Robertson Strong and T. A. Bond retire, but are eligible for re-election. It will devolve upon the meeting to fix the auditors' remuneration.

DE BURGH PERSE,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1895.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
31st March, 1895.	Dr.			
To capital—200,000 shares at £1 each		200,000	0	0
Less unissued shares, 10,000 shares at £1 each		10,000	0	0
		190,000	0	0
Uncalled capital on 140,000 shares at 6s. 2d. per share		43,166	13	4
		146,833	6	8
To sundry creditors *		1,616	4	0
To unclaimed dividends—				
Singapore		21	19	6
Brisbane		8	1	0
		30	0	6
London Bank of Australia, o/d.		16	15	9
		2148,496	6	11

* This includes £1,552 15s. 4d. on account of R. Sefton's shares.

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
31st March, 1895.	Cr.			
By mining property (nominal)		13,237	12	10
By machinery		27,619	0	0
By plant		366	0	0
By tools, implements, and stores		753	0	0
By buildings		1,478	0	0
By timber		35	0	0
By firewood		38	0	0
By furniture—Singapore and Raub		180	0	0
By railway		25	0	0
		10,494	0	0
By concentrates		25	0	0
By value of estimated proportion of eighteenth crushing belonging to year ending 28th February, viz., 700 ozs. gold from 1,667 tons of stone		2,502	10	0
By balance to credit dividend account:—				
Singapore		21	19	6
Brisbane		8	1	0
		30	0	6
By cash balance, Singapore		2427	16	11
By cash balance, Raub		389	12	10
		817	9	9
By profit and loss account		1,389	13	10
		2148,496	6	11

PROFIT AND LOSS.

1st April, 1894.	£	s.	d.
To balance down	1,755	5	11
31st March, 1895.			
To directors' and auditors' fees, salaries, and charges	698	16	1
To wages and expenses at Raub, including cost of Singapore office and directors' fees	10,180	0	7
To stores, tools, and implements	352	0	3
To fuel	707	5	7
To timber	104	12	4
	11,343	18	9
To depreciation, plant	130	1	0
To depreciation, furniture	4	18	1
	134	19	1
	213,932	19	10

1st April.—To balance down	1,389	13	10
31st March, 1895.			
By gold account—			
Net proceeds: 3,413 ozs. of gold from 6,459 tons of stone (including estimated value of January and February crushing, viz., 700 ozs. from 1,667 tons of stone) after payment of royalty, cost of transit, insurance, &c.	12,165	12	6
By net proceeds 868 bags of concentrates	265	13	6
By rent received for farm	112	0	0
By balance down	1,389	13	10
	213,932	19	10

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Twenty-six members were present on Saturday to compete for the Short Range Cup, which was won by Mr. McDonald. The spoons were won by Capt. Ferguson, R.B., Private Godbeer, R.B., Sapper Pritchard, R.E., Sapper Thompson, R.E., Private Priddle, R.B., and Sapper Lawson, R.E. The following were the best scores:—

	500 yards.	600 yards.	H'cap points.	Total.
D. McDonald	23	30	10	63
Capt. Ferguson, R.B.	30	30	—	60
Private Godbeer, R.B.	27	32	—	59
Sapper Pritchard, R.E.	31	26	—	57
Sapper Thompson, R.E.	27	27	3	57
Private Priddle, R.B.	33	21	3	57
Sapper Lawson, R.E.	27	24	4	55
Corporal Woolridge, R.B.	29	25	—	54
H. McPhail	25	28	—	53
W. Duncan	27	22	4	53
W. Stewart	28	19	6	53

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

BATTERY PATHWAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR.—Some months ago, what might have been a very serious accident occurred in Battery Pathway in front of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's offices and overlooking the back courtyard of Beaconsfield Arcade. A lady riding in a ricksha was coming from the direction of the Cathedral and the two coolies in charge lost control of it at the top of the hill, and all were carried with tremendous force against a small three barrier rail protecting the pathway from the precipitous stone wall of the back courtyard. Fortunately the ricksha fell outward, and beyond a severe shaking no one was the worse. The top bar of the iron railing, however, was broken and has since been removed, but so far there is no sign of its being replaced. The second bar is only about two feet from the ground and on a dark night to anyone not acquainted with the road and the sharp turning a false step at this spot would mean instant death. It certainly appears to me to be the duty of the Government to see that this danger to human life is at once removed.

While on this subject it must occur to anyone coming or going to the tram that Battery Pathway is not a fit place for rickshas. Brokers continually are seen going down with only two coolies at full speed having no control of the carriage and pedestrians are in constant danger of being run over from behind or have to jump to one side down a steep embankment at the risk of breaking their necks. Ricksha traffic on this

road should be prohibited, as it was some years ago.—Yours, &c.,

A PEAKITE.

Hongkong, 21st June, 1895.

THE CHINESE IN THE PUBLIC GARDENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I am compelled with reluctance to ask you the favour of a small space in your valuable paper to ventilate a grievance of long standing. If I am not mistaken much has already been written re the above subject. Yet the "powers that be" seem not to take the slightest heed. One has only to take a stroll up there during the evening, say between five and seven, to see whether I am within the mark in saying that this class of people—of course I mean the low class (far from wounding the feeling of any respectable member of the Chinese community)—should not be allowed to make use of the Gardens, to say nothing of the Band night, for the sake of common decency. As your readers are undoubtedly aware of their customs and behaviour, it is needless for me to mention them here, but suffice it to say that the sooner the "powers that be" put a stop to it the better.—Yours truly,

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

Hongkong, 21st June, 1895.

THE PUBLICATION OF PLAGUE STATISTICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Being interested in the shipping trade of this port, and more especially in connection with the neighbouring Spanish colony, it has occurred to me more than once to ask you what possible good is obtained by the publicity now given to the few sporadic cases of plague which unfortunately exist in Hongkong. The Health Officer grants clean bills of health to all ships leaving the port, from which it would appear that the sanitary condition of the place is satisfactory and free from infection, and still the daily papers publish plague statistics which can only convey to the outsider a totally different opinion. I have been told that this is done with a view to prevent exaggerated reports being invented by our neighbours, which might have an injurious effect upon trade, but it should be remembered that the neighbours who give us most trouble in this respect do not give the Hongkong authorities credit for their honest intentions. I have heard it remarked by Spanish officials, that if the authorities here admit ten cases of plague, the actual figures would be nearer 100, whilst if no returns were published their estimate would probably be considerably less; and I am assured that under present circumstances no quarantine restrictions would be enforced. In these matters we would do well to follow the example of our Spanish and French neighbours, whose method, although perhaps somewhat out of date, is most decidedly less injurious to the interests of the colony than our own system.

It appears to me that so long as the sanitary condition of the colony is sufficiently satisfactory for the Health Officer to issue clean bills of health it is the duty of the authorities to facilitate and not to hinder the trade of the colony, and since it can be clearly proved that their gratuitous announcements in the daily press of each sporadic case of plague is not only absolutely useless, but causes considerable loss of time and money, they cannot surely see the necessity of continuing such a ruinous policy. Perhaps the authorities would realize the disastrous effect of their inconsistent method if a few of the large steamship companies were to adopt the determination, which you informed your readers has been recently arrived at by the owners of the new line of Spanish steamers, and leave Hongkong out of their itinerary until all quarantine restrictions against the port are removed.

When we have to submit to such absurd sanitary regulations as are at present in force in Manila, which have undergone no modifications during the past 400 years, I think a little consideration might be extended by the local authorities in favour of the shipping interests, which constitute the backbone of the colony. It may not be generally known that according to one of these 400 year old regulations quarantine restrictions cannot be removed until 30 days have transpired without a single case of plague being officially declared, and this was actually

the state of affairs on the 12th instant when a new case was unearthed, and the utmost care was taken that everybody should know it.

Thanking you for granting space in your valuable columns for these lines.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Hongkong, 24th June, 1895.

THE CURRENCY CRISIS IN TONKIN.

At a meeting of the Hanoi Chamber of Commerce held on the 25th May the following correspondence was read:—

A letter of the 4th May, 1895, from the Governor-General, submitting for the consideration of the Chamber the questions asked by M. Verrier, Inspector-General of the Colonies, in his letter of the 12th April:—

To ask the Chambers of Commerce at Hanoi and Haiphong what is, in their opinion, the best means of meeting the monetary crisis which at present prevails in French Indo-China; what would be the advantages and disadvantages of the introduction of the Japanese yen or of the British dollar, or if it would not be better to diminish the fineness of the *piastre de commerce* (French trade dollar) to prevent its drainage? Would it not be better, while maintaining the fineness of the trade dollar, 900/1,000, which is exactly the same as that of the yen and British dollar, to reduce its weight, which is 27.215 grains, to 27.070 grains, which is that of the yen and British dollar? Lastly, in order to avoid the possible return of a crisis similar to the present, would it not be well to admit on the same footing the yen, the British dollar, and the trade dollar diminished in weight?

To this the President replied at once as follows:—

Hanoi, 4th May.

Monsieur le Gouverneur-General.—In reply to your letter of this date concerning the questions asked by M. l'Inspecteur-General Verrier, I have the honour to inform you that these questions were discussed by the Chamber of Commerce in M. Verrier's presence at the meeting of the 23rd April last, that the minutes of the said meeting have been communicated to M. Verrier, and he has acknowledged their receipt.

In accordance with our regulations, a copy of the minutes was addressed to the Resident-Maire, our honorary President, for transmission to you, and I think, Monsieur le Gouverneur-General, that it will be found in your office.

From the minutes you will see that we thought we had not to concern ourselves with dollars—metal which we always know how to find for our requirements. This question solely concerns the Bank, which is under obligation to cash its notes at sight under pain of protest, and it is sufficient to have notes in order to be sure of having dollars when required.

We think, nevertheless, that it could not but be advantageous to be able easily to procure under favourable conditions the dollars necessary for circulation and that, although this facility would profit hardly any one but the Banque de l'Indo-Chine in Tonkin, it would be a great assistance to the Cochinchina trade, which, on account of its purchases of rice and the diversity of its credit establishments, finds itself under conditions different from ours.

There is, therefore, a certain advantage for Saigon and no disadvantage for us; but on the express condition that the proposed moneys shall be received at par in Hongkong.

To the trade dollar we think there would be little or no opposition, but we fear it would not be the same with the Japanese yen. In fact there is being struck for Hongkong a coin called the British dollar and it is to be feared that in order to favour the circulation of its national money the colony of Hongkong would receive unfavourably a proposition to admit the yen, which at present is not current and the need of which will be still less felt on the appearance of the British dollar, and especially if the trade dollar be admitted.

In case the yen were refused admission to Hongkong it would become for us a cause of ruin. In fact our actual money, the Mexican dollar, is also the legal money of Hongkong, and we must not lose sight of the fact that it is with Hongkong that the greater part of our business lies. We can to-day pay for our purchases with our money without cost of exchange. Still better, our money is at a premium.

If we admit the yen we may be sure that, on account of this premium, the Mexican dollar would speedily disappear from circulation. The evil would not be so great if we could, less the premium, effect our payments with our new money. But if Hongkong should refuse this, wherewith should we pay? It would be necessary to apply to the Bank and pay for exchange 10 per cent. or more.

The Chamber of Commerce is of opinion that we have already enough with the Customs tariff without adding thereto the further aggravation of an exchange dependent solely on a Bank of which we know the tendencies.

The Chamber of Commerce thinks it ought to be added that the inconveniences for Tonkin above set out do not apply to Cochinchina, which is in relation especially with Singapore, where the Japanese yen is legal tender. Therefore, in case of Hongkong refusing to admit the yen, the Chamber of Commerce thinks that the yen ought to be rejected in Tonkin, leaving Saigon to act according to its own interests.

As to the trade dollar, if it is of the same fineness and weight as the yen and British dollar it is certain to be well received here.

If it should again be absorbed by our neighbours, which is possible, on account of the excellence of its coinage and the difficulty of counterfeiting it, we would only have to strike more, the charge for coinage more than covering the cost.

THE SZECHUEN OUTRAGES.

A correspondent writes from Kiukiang, under date of 11th inst., to the *N. C. Daily News*:—

At last foreign wires from the west have been permitted! All yesterday, last night, and to-day, hundreds of official messages have been coming through from all the principal Szechuen telegraph stations. They came in cypher to the Tsungli Yamen, the Wuchang and Nanking Viceroy, and doubtless were reporting progress. A number of wires were sent west by foreigners, but it was distinctly stated that no foreign messages would come through in reply till to-night or to-morrow. Perhaps the Ministers have by their representations in Peking caused the lines here to give up their secrets, and serious enough they are. The news just to hand is that Chêngtu, Kiating, Yachou, Sinking, and Pengshan have been completely wrecked and that Luchou and Suifu are threatened, also Chungking, where the examinations are about to come off. The Chêngtu foreigners were sent away from that place yesterday, 10th June, after 13 days' confinement in the yaméns. From certain indications to hand it seems that a number of other places have gone and that Yunnan is in the same condition as Szechuen. It is reported in the telegrams that some foreigners are missing and the natives have it that some foreigners have been killed. Chungking people urgently request assistance. Communications have been received here by the natives from the *litterati* or officials of the west urging them to rise at once and, as the Hunan programme provided, drive the foreign devils into the sea.

One cannot but be struck by certain designed coincidences. As soon as the riots begin the wires are reported to be down and remain down ten days. The stoppage was said to be a trivial damage, 175 li west of Shashi and near Iohang. If this be true—and there is grave reason to doubt the whole story—it is but a few hours' journey to Shashi, where there is a telegraph station, and messages could easily have been sent by boat or courier entailing only some few hours' delay, but we have ten days' interruption and it is impossible to give a satisfactory explanation of this occurrence. Again, when sufficient time has been allowed to get the scheme of the Viceroy's well under way, and when the Ministers in Peking will no longer be put off, the lines are in repair again and after some 36 hours' further delay for government messages, foreign news is permitted to come through.

Another coincidence is striking, namely, that the Wuchang and Nanking Viceroy are in full touch with the Yunnan and Szechuen Viceroy, and probably the Canton Viceroy as well. That is, all the high mandarins of the Empire are well aware of and probably will soon be actors in the tragedy now being enacted. It is a curious fact that instead of disbanding the armies of the Empire now peace is declared they are increased and retained. Will Peking now show up her hand and tell the Ministers plainly they don't

intend to protect foreigners any more, but that they intend to rid the land of them? Let no one be deceived, this whole affair must be fastened on the central government. At this time a great fury is raging in Hunan; soon after Wu Taohêng reached Changsha the Great God of Hunan is found destroyed and a madman is put up to say the Christians did it so that foreigners might take the province, for while Wang Ye reigned Hunan was safe against any foe. In Kiukiang the same barefaced attempt to stir up the people by the officials is in progress, and it is reported that an attempt along the same line is being or will be made in Hankow and Wuchang. All these are facts, and it is probable the work is only just begun, and that as the days go by we shall hear of much more serious events in connection with this official attempt to oust foreigners. One thing only will settle this problem—the immediate humiliation of China and the passing of the Government into Western hands.

THE WEST RIVER.

The Peking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—

In my former letter I called attention to the deletion from the Treaty of Peace of the port of Wuchow, in Kuangsi, situated on the West River. Great importance has for a long time been attached to the opening of this river and frequent have been the representations on the subject by the British and German Legations, but hitherto without success. Similar opposition has been met here, as in other Chinese waterways, from the native junk owners. Native steamers have even been forbidden, as on the Upper Yangtze. After the Japanese successful war all such opposition has been overcome and it was confidently anticipated that whatever Japan chose to ask would be granted, and this among others. But our hopes were only raised to be dashed to the ground. The port was struck out of the Treaty. Sooner or later the Chinese Government will be compelled to open this river. The province of Kuangsi must be reached and this waterway opened to international trade. It has been through French influence that the river has remained closed. This river would be able to compete favourably in its traffic with the route which the French in Tonkin are trying to open up with the view of tapping Kuangsi and South-west China. We hope the hands of Germany are not tied on this question by the present alliance. This would be more than the husks of the chestnuts which she and France are taking out of the fire for their big friend.

MORE COMMENT ON THE INK-STAND INCIDENT.

There is one thing that no man has ever succeeded in achieving with grace; it is the return of a gift on the ground of its inadequacy. Mr. J. J. Francis of Hongkong has made the essay and has accomplished it after a fashion not certainly wanting in ability, but altogether wanting in grace. Mr. Francis acted as Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Hongkong Sanitary Board during the plague epidemic of 1894, and rendered services of a most substantial and praiseworthy character in that capacity. In return for his work, the Hongkong Government, "with the approval of Her Majesty's Government," presented to him a silver inkstand bearing an inscription. Mr. Francis sent back the inkstand. The Governor of Hongkong, when forwarding it to Mr. Francis, described it as "a handsome silver inkstand." We may infer from this peculiar proceeding on the Governor's part—extolling the beauties of a gift presented by a body politic of which he himself was the head—that Sir William Robinson had doubts as to the suitability of the inkpot as a recognition. Mr. Francis soon confirmed those doubts. His letter announcing his rejection of the testimonial filled nearly two columns of a daily newspaper and contained a categorical statement of reasons that rendered the Colonial Government's gift inadequate. The reasons were exposed in eight paragraphs, every one of which was, in effect, a panegyric of Mr. J. J. Francis' services penned by Mr. J. J. Francis himself. We shall not enter into these reasons. It is enough to

quote their pith as contained in Mr. Francis' summing up.

It will be observed that Mr. Francis takes up slightly contradictory positions in this *résumé*. He is "perfectly satisfied" with the recognition already extended to him in the form of the thanks of the community, yet, in view of his eminent services, as detailed by himself, it is impossible for him to accept such a paltry supplementary acknowledgement as a silver inkstand. He has "a sufficient memorial of the plague year and of his work during it in the gold medal to be presented to him by his fellow-citizens and in the state of his 'tee book,' yet he finds the additional gift of a silver inkstand 'indicously inadequate.'" In fact, he is content with what has already fallen to his share, but he would have been "highly gratified" if Her Majesty had made him a C.M.G. in addition. Of course the first thought that occurs to us in reading this letter is, for what did Mr. Francis work during the plague. If his labours were perfectly disinterested, if they were dictated solely by benevolence to his kind, all public recognition of them subsequently must have seemed superfluous. If their motive was to obtain distinction and reward for himself, then he would naturally scrutinize the quality of the fame and the quantity of the recompense coming to him. By the course he has taken, Mr. Francis invites the public to put the latter construction on his acts. At the same time, it is impossible not to sympathize with him. The procedure of the Hongkong Government towards him seems miserably wanting in fact. The widow's mite was a noble offering, but the Government of a great British colony cannot claim the privileges of an indigent widow. If it was not in a position to recognise Mr. Francis' undoubtedly great services in some manner worthy of an Administration and proportionate to his merits, it should have confined itself simply to a despatch of warm thanks. But to send him a silver inkstand, and to describe it as "a handsome silver inkstand," was to make itself contemptible and to bring ridicule on his services. Mr. Francis has been kind to the Government of the colony. He has softened the situation for it by diverting to himself a portion of the criticism that would otherwise have been monopolized by the Government. The whole affair makes an ugly page in the annals of the colony.—*Japan Mail*.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN FORMOSA.

Many Japanese capitalists are, according to the Japanese press, desirous of establishing large sugar refineries in Formosa when that island becomes completely incorporated into Japan's dominions and when peace is restored there. It seems, however, that a great obstacle lies in the way of the enterprise, making it highly doubtful whether it can be carried out, at any rate for the time being. Sugar is produced in the two districts, Taku and Anping, whence a refinery established in the island would get its supply of raw material. At present, however, the whole produce of raw sugar is monopolized by the two Hongkong firms, Jardine, Matheson & Co., and Butterfield and Swire, through a certain Chinese agent. The connection between the two firms and the sugar cultivators in Taku and Anping is very close, as the former advance money to the latter through the medium of their agent, just as the wholesale silk merchants of Yokohama do to the silk manufacturers in this country. Such being the case, a sugar refinery in Formosa would at once collapse for want of raw material. On the other hand, it is well nigh hopeless for Japanese to compete with the above-mentioned firms in point of capital.

Matters relating to the ownership of land are in a very unsettled state in the island. Not only are the two firms not proprietors of the land from which the raw material for their refineries is obtained, but it is exceedingly doubtful whether the sugar growers themselves are rightful owners of the farms that they cultivate. In most cases it seems that they plant canes on land of uncertain ownership.

Even in Korea land goes with the house standing on it when the latter is sold, and it is not unlikely, therefore, that land in Formosa is

accessory to the crop growing upon it. The Administration Office of Formosa would do well to attend to the matter and to define precisely the ownership of land.—*Japan Mail*.

THE CANTON CUSTOMS REPORT.

The following is the report of Mr. G. Farragó, Commissioner of Customs at Canton, on the trade of that port for the year 1894:—

LOCAL.

The year under review has not been free from adverse elements affecting the course of trade. In the early spring months an epidemic of disease infected Canton city and the adjoining districts, and claiming as it did its victims from the densely populated cities, caused a general exodus to the country and thereby reduced the available labour at the more important industrial centres. Hardly had the epidemic somewhat subsided when a complication of political questions arose, followed quickly by the outbreak of hostilities in the North; and thus another source of disturbance was added to the already unsatisfactory state of the trade. At the same time the conditions of the weather were not so favourable as to promise any relief; the drought, extending into the summer, prognosticated badly for the rice and sugar harvests. Fortunately, the rain, when it came, was still of value to the land, and not quite so severe as to cause much damage either to property or to the silk industry. The net value of Canton's trade carried on in foreign bottoms and within the cognizance of this office was Hk. Tls. 45,500,000, showing an advance on the figures of the previous year of Hk. Tls. 3,000,000. To this result the port's principal staples contributed in the following manner:—opium, Hk. Tls. 4,100,000; Indian yarn, Hk. Tls. 3,000,000; rice, wheat, and beans, Hk. Tls. 14,200,000; matting, Hk. Tls. 500,000; silk, Hk. Tls. 12,700,000; and tea, the modest sum of Hk. Tls. 276,000.

REVENUE.

Although the values, compared with those of the preceding year, have been well sustained, the total collection exhibits a decided weakness, being deficient by Hk. Tls. 183,000 when placed against the total for 1893. The decrease in the receipts is progressive from the year 1891, when the marked decline in the import trade of Indian opium commenced. The increase in duties collected under import, coast trade, and tonnage affords some encouragement, which would be better accentuated did the same apply to exports as well.

FOREIGN TRADE.

(a.) *Imports*.—A marked improvement pervades the list of cotton goods, in spite of the fact that higher silver prices had to be paid by the Eastern consumer of European products. The advance in textile fabrics is 13 per cent. and Indian yarn 34 per cent. This return to an apparently healthier condition may be explained partly by diminished stocks, and partly by the greater prosperity prevalent in the districts which draw their supplies from this market. The increased importation of Bombay yarn, as shown in our tables, is principally due to the change in carriage, occurring in September, from junks to steamers. At the same time it is reported that the demand in the interior for Indian yarn for weaving purposes has been better than before, owing to the inherent good qualities and cheapness of the Indian as compared with the home-made yarn. There was less raw cotton imported from foreign countries than in 1893, but the deficiency is made up by a much larger supply from the Yangtze provinces. Woollen goods have slightly fallen off. Metals, excepting lead, have shrunk considerably, the decrease being most visible in iron and copper. Of kerosene oil the quantity imported for the year in foreign bottoms is quite insignificant; the restriction put upon its carriage by steamers and the low taxation ruling for the junk-imported article explain this sufficiently. The increase among edibles is noteworthy. Rice has a fall of over 60 per cent.; but this only refers to imports from Saigon and Siam transhipped at Hongkong, for the coastwise arrivals of this commodity have been exceptionally heavy. The list of sundries contains a number of items interesting from the fact that their use is as yet not general amongst natives, and this growing supply seems to point to an increasing disposition to adopt them. Foreign

flour has become an important staple among imports. In the course of 1894 154,000 piculs were landed at Canton—an increase of about 40 per cent. over the total of the year preceding; this, possibly, has been due to the high prices for rice, consequent upon its scarcity throughout the year, which must have stimulated a larger consumption of the comparatively cheaper flour.

(b.) *Exports*.—Estimated by the extent of value, the export trade to foreign countries has not suffered any reduction in its volume compared with the figures of the previous year. Examined item by item, however, several of the important products of the port show a falling off, and a few only an increase. Of tea, the quantity exported by steamers is again 50 per cent. short of the preceding year's shipments. Due to the difference in freight, etc., most of the local teas are shipped to Hongkong by junks, and therefore our figures do not measure the extent of the tea trade; it may nevertheless be accepted that the supply of the leaf has generally been reduced, owing to lower prices paid to growers. At the same time it is said that native teamen realised fair profits, and that foreign shippers fared equally well. Matting, another staple product of the port, shows a similarly large falling off; this is attributed mainly to the excessive shipments of 1893, when the principal market for this article, the United States, received considerably beyond its needs. Another reason for the decline in the export of matting is the competition, marked by increased production, from Japan; the immunity from taxation in that country enjoyed by the article in its raw and manufactured state is obviously a condition very favourable to the Japanese product. Shipments in raw and refuse silk and in silk piece goods were at slightly advanced figures, and a diminished business is apparent in only wild silk and cocoons. The accounts of the year's transactions furnished by foreign buyers and native dealers are nevertheless unsatisfactory in tenour; want of firmness in exchange rates and heavy fluctuation in prices are responsible for this. The following extract from a review of the silk trade in 1894, kindly placed at my disposal by an experienced merchant, will prove of interest:—"The year has been disappointing to dealers and buyers alike on the whole, and the encouragement given from time to time by the markets abroad has in all cases been withdrawn soon after purchases have been made, while the frequent fluctuations in the laid down cost made it very difficult to operate. In Canton, silk suffers, in common with silk all over the world, from the reduced consumption in the United States of silk piece goods. With a revival there a steadier market and more remunerative rates may be looked for. A noticeable feature in the trade is the almost complete effacement of Tatlee reel for shipment to London. The quality of the silk generally shows a tendency to deteriorate, and this deterioration is not so much due to inherent defective quality as to the want of care in selection of cocoons and overseeing of reeling them bestowed by the proprietors of filatures." The export of fire-crackers and fireworks has undergone a further shrinkage, attributed to the scarcity of sailing vessels on berth for America; dealers have been obliged to ship this inflammable commodity by Pacific steamers to San Francisco, and thence by rail to New York, at ruinous freight charges.

COAST TRADE.

(a.) *Original Shipments Coastwise*.—Trade under this heading is of no special interest at this port. It represents solely the direct traffic, limited in extent, carried on by ocean steamers between Canton and the coast ports of China. The value, Hk. Tls. 2,700,000, is a slight improvement on that of the previous year, and is made up principally of silk goods, sugar, and glassware.

(b.) *Reshipments Coastwise*.—Nil.

(c.) *Coastwise Arrivals*.—The total quantity of beans and rice imported in 1894 is largely in excess of the corresponding imports in 1893. Owing to the restriction put upon the shipment of pulse from Newchwang to Japan, and the natural desire of holders to dispose of their stocks in time, deliveries here were upon a larger scale than usual. As regards grain, the measures taken against the export of rice from the Yangtze ports soon after the commencement of hostilities brought about such a scarcity of this food staple at Canton that, in spite of the comparatively good harvest in the interior,

a rice famine was apprehended. The timely removal of the restrictive regulations, however, succeeded in averting that calamity, and before the year closed supplies became so plentiful as to cause an important reduction in the greatly enhanced cost of rice. In wheat the falling off is significant; this is, I am told, due in a certain measure to the closing, during the prevalence of the plague, of the numerous eating-houses in the city where eatables made from wheat are chiefly consumed.

INLAND TRANSIT.

This system was not made use of during the twelve months under review.

SHIPPING.

The list shows an increase over the figures for 1893 in the total number of vessels entered and cleared, which is accounted for by the growing number of native-owned steam-launches plying for hire in the waters of Canton. Under the British flag the number of entries and clearances is slightly below that of the preceding year, but the carrying capacity of the vessels gives an increase of over 100,000 tons. Of the total tonnage, 84 per cent. falls to the share of the British flag, 7 per cent. to the German, and 8 per cent. to the Chinese.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Compared with the statistics of 1893 the falling off in the number of native passengers to Hongkong is 75,000, and from Hongkong 36,000. The clue to this may be traced in the prevalence of the plague at Hongkong, the dread of this disease stopping for a time the usual stream of natives to and from the colony. The decrease in foreign tourists should be put down to the same cause.

TREASURY.

The amount of silver imported is valued at Hk. Tls. 4,000,000, and the amount exported at Hk. Tls. 2,400,000, thus showing, for the first time since 1891, a large excess of imports. The imports consisted chiefly of bullion and the exports of coined silver.

OPIUM.

(a) *Foreign.*—The decline in the opium trade at Canton has been again progressive, the total falling off, compared with the figures for 1893, being 1,585 piculs. The reason for this continued decrease is to be found in the diminished supply of the drug—caused by legislation and unfavourable conditions of weather in India—and in the extremely high prices ruling for it in China. Canton dealers declare themselves satisfied with the profits realised during the year.

(b) *Native.*—Owing to the irregular channels through which native opium finds its way to the consumer, it is difficult to form an idea of its growth in and about Canton, and one can only imagine that the supply increases in proportion to the decrease in the foreign article. The average prices per picul quoted for the various kinds of native opium in 1894 were as follows:—Szechwan, Tls. 368; Kweichow, Tls. 328; and Yunnan, Tls. 376.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The most momentous occurrence of the year affecting Canton was the appearance of the pest known as the "bubonic plague," to which, it is computed, as many as 100,000 souls fell victims in the city. The people chiefly affected by the disease were of the lower classes, living under poor conditions and occupying unclean dwellings; while the boat population, opium smokers, and workmen employed in tea factories are said to have enjoyed a comparative freedom from attack. The death rate among plague patients was the highest at the commencement of the epidemic, and towards the end a successful treatment became more general.

As worthy of record, the destruction by fire in September of the famous flower-boats may be noted. Their want has not been long felt, however, as newly built boats are rapidly occupying the vacant place.

Import and export values in 1894 were as follows:—

	Hk. Tls.
Net foreign imports, market value	13,699,233
Net native imports, market value	13,686,593
Net imports	27,385,876
Deduct duties and likin paid at Canton	1,264,023
Net imports, minus duty	26,121,853
Deduct 7 per cent. for importers' profit, etc.	1,828,530
Imports, value at moment of landing	24,293,323

Original exports, market value 18,031,721
Add duty paid at Canton..... 568,967

Exports, plus duty 18,600,688
Add 8 per cent. on market value for exporters' profit, etc. 1,442,533

Exports, value at moment of shipment 20,043,226

KOWLOON TRADE REPORT FOR 1894.

The following is the report of Mr. H. E. Hobson, Commissioner of Customs, on the trade passing the Kowloon Customs stations during 1894:—

LOCAL.

When it is mentioned that during the busiest months of the year in connexion with trade in the East the neighbourhood of the Kowloon stations, including the colony of Hongkong, was visited by the much-dreaded bubonic plague, which struck terror into the minds of the Chinese population, causing merchants, boat people, and the working classes alike to think only of flight and how to escape contagion, it will be readily conceived that, when compared with 1893, nothing but a falling off in mercantile transactions could be anticipated. In reality, matters might have been very much less satisfactory; but before proceeding to review the figures contained in our returns it will probably be as well to offer a few remarks on the plague ravages, which may be described as having had, for the time being at any rate, a paralysing effect. From our stations, which proved excellent vantage grounds for observation, since they are situated at distances varying from 3 to 10 miles to the south, east, and west of Hongkong, the fact was established that the disease known to the Chinese as *wan-i*, and supposed to have been introduced by an infected passenger arriving from Yunnan via the West River and Canton, or from the same region by steamer via Pakhai, made its appearance in different directions early in May. The first case that came under observation was at the Fotochow station on the 12th of that month, and the infliction continued, with varying virulence, until early in August, by which time the number of cases coming under the immediate cognizance of the members of the Customs staff, which included the patients transferred from Hongkong to Canton in junks via Capsuimoon, together with the admissions to the Laichikok hospital, equalled 933 in all. The victims were more numerous in the crowded western portion of the British colony. By proclamation bearing date 10th May Hongkong was declared an infected port, and it was not until the 3rd September that this proclamation was revoked. By that time, and in spite of the numerous preventive measures adopted by the colonial authorities, the number of registered deaths was 2,552, of which no less than 1,688 occurred in the month of June alone. During most of this period the harbour of Hongkong had a deserted appearance; it was difficult to obtain either coolies to work cargo, and the usual busy hum of men and traffic was absent, both ashore and afloat. This is hardly the place, even if space permitted, for entering into fuller details regarding a visitation which will long be remembered in the Kowloon district from its malignant character and the general misfortunes which followed in its train; but it may be of interest to observe that the Chinese, from the highest to the lowest, educated and ignorant alike, viewed it from a distinctly fatalistic standpoint. Apparently, they had but little faith in medicines, and more particularly those prescribed by European practitioners. Their only desire when stricken was to be left at home undisturbed, regardless of danger by infection to relatives, friends, and neighbours; they lay down to live or die, as—so the better informed put it—"the will of Heaven decreed."

As soon as the adverse circumstances above related were removed, a tide of prosperity set in; and although it was impossible to make up all the lost ground, yet the total value of the trade for 1894 as conducted via the Kowloon stations was estimated at Hk. Tls. 40,687,681, or but Hk. Tls. 899,202 short of the figures of the previous season. Foreign imports represented 37.67 per cent. of this total value (a decline of nearly 5 per cent.); native imports were stationary at 8.45 per cent.; native exports amounted

to 48.33 per cent. (a gain of 2 per cent.); goods from Chinese ports to Chinese ports equalled 5.55 per cent., or a gain of 1.55 per cent.

REVENUE.

The total collection amounted to Tls. 515,188, a decrease of Tls. 7,241, or only 1.40 per cent., when compared with the total of 1893, and displayed the following peculiarities, viz.:—

DECREASE.

	Tls.
Opium duties	30,266
Import likin	(12.88 per cent.) 7,711
Export likin	1,343
Ching-fei on piece goods, etc.	2,618

INCREASE.

	Tls.
Import duties (opium excluded)	5,837
Export duties	1,910
Ching-fei on kerosene oil	21,570
Ching-fei on wax	753
Granary tax on rice and paddy	4,626

FOREIGN TRADE.

(a) *Imports.*—An all round diminution in the importation of foreign goods has to be mentioned, which resulted in a shrinkage in value by Hk. Tls. 2,336,463. In rice and paddy alone (chiefly Siamese) the supply was 2,399,284 piculs behind that of 1893. There were increases in Russian kerosene oil of 3,660,470 gallons, the total import being 7,589,735 gallons; needles, 2,760 mille, the total being 49,668 mille; sugar, 5,048 piculs, the total being 22,858 piculs; wood (red, ebony, etc.), Hk. Tls. 42,047, the total being Hk. Tls. 120,061. The important decreases were as under:—

Description of Goods.	Total quantity.	Decrease.
Bicho de Mar	3,986 piculs	1,119
Coal	37,728 tons	1,853
Cotton, raw	2,797 piculs	1,399
Cotton piece goods	46,647 pieces	14,046
Cotton yarn and thread	683 piculs	1,008
Flour	26,859 piculs	5,325
Ginseng	208 piculs	181
Matches	397,340 gross	37,777
Metals, chiefly iron, lead in pigs, copper, and steel	244,894 piculs	13,499
Oil, kerosene, American	6,819,095 gallons	664,625
Opium, Indian	641 piculs	275
Rice and paddy	4,977,856 piculs	2,399,284
Seaweed	4,480 piculs	3,444
Timber, beams, logs, etc.	207,296 value	58,061
Woollen piece goods	9,350 pieces	5,781

(b) *Exports.*—In exports there was an advance of 3.85 per cent. as compared with the figures of the previous season, and it is evident that the plague troubles had little influence on the general producing capabilities of the neighbourhood. Manufactured articles, such as fine chinaware, cushions, embroidered goods, feather and paper fans, fire-crackers, artificial flowers, gold leaf, joss ornaments, joss paper, matting, pens, shoes, wild silk, silk cocoons, silk piece goods, tin-foil, and tobacco, were in fuller supply than usual; whilst drugs and comestibles, such as cassia lignea, cuttle-fish, fresh fruit, lard, nutgalls, olives, orange peel, potatoes, rice, black tea (66,864 piculs), were all in excess. Shipments of cassia, which in 1893 fell off by 54,214 piculs, recovered to the extent of 21,833 piculs. Short quantities, however, must be noted in connexion with white and green alum; gunny and straw bags; bricks, tiles, and building materials; charcoal; feathers; dried fish; hides and horns; straw and packing mats; first quality paper; preserves; salt; brown and white sugar; green tea (1,819 piculs); and white raw silk.

(c) *Re-exports.*—Nil.

COAST TRADE.

(a) *Original Shipments Coastwise.*—Nil.

(b) *Coastwise Arrivals* (i.e., produce exchanged between Chinese ports via the Kowloon stations).—Owing chiefly to largely increased consignments of salt, there was a gain in the value of cargoes reporting direct from Chinese ports of Hk. Tls. 60,321, and in those via Hongkong of Hk. Tls. 100,163. Fishery products and salt vegetables were more plentiful than usual, but in connexion with firewood, grasscloth, ground-nut cake, joss paper, and packing mats, supplies were short. Prepared opium, packed in jars, covered by passes issued by the Canton Hoppo, passed the stations to the total of 18 piculs, and though described as foreign was suspected of being native, and possibly slightly admixed.

Hongkong-Macao Trade via Changchow and Capsuimoon.—Seven steam-launches were employed off and on between the sister colonies during the season, and, in addition, there were 101 more junks engaged than in 1893, the result being that the cargoes from Hongkong to Macao

were valued at Hk. Tls. 2,987,262, or Hk. Tls. 35,494 more than in 1893, and those from Macao to Hongkong at Hk. Tls. 1,140,015, or Hk. Tls. 114,222 less. From the British colony the increased shipments were represented by beans, bran, coke, cotton yarn, raw cotton (native), flour, gypsum, liquid indigo, lily flowers, molasses, paddy, rice, shrimps, brown sugar, green tea, and leaf tobacco; whilst cotton and woollen piece goods, metals, star aniseed, betel-nut, Indian raw cotton, dried fish, fungus, gambier, gunpowder, hemp, medicines, kerosene and ground-nut oils, white sugar and sugar candy, black tea, and vermicelli and macaroni were not up to average. From Macao came augmented quantities of palm-leaf fans, fire-crackers, packing mats, soy, green, tea, prepared tobacco, and timber; and decreased supplies of straw bags, cement, dried fish, indigo, straw mats, ground-nut oil, brown and white sugar (short, 26,026 piculs), samshu, and black and unfired tea.

SHIPPING.

Consequent on the gambling establishments at Shamshuipo and Kowloon city having remained closed nearly the whole season, there was, as predicted in the 1893 report, a large diminution in the entries and clearances of steam-launches at Kowloon, the total being 10,523, or 3,623 less. Junk entries diminished by 2.66 per cent., equalling 60,622—46,353 with cargo and 14,269 in ballast. Between Hongkong and Macao 1,803 craft found employment, or 101 more than in 1893. Of the larger type of sea-going junks, 2 entered from Annamese ports and 1 from Siam, whilst of clearances, 4 were for Singapore and 1 for Annam. The import cargoes of these consisted of hard-wood beams, and the export of kerosene oil (American), china-ware and pottery, tea and tea stalk, medicines, and a few native sundries.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

There was a falling off of 23 per cent. in the number of passengers reported from the several stations, the total being 1,149,209. Of these, 226,163 (increase, 29,537, as compared with the total in 1893) proceeded via Capsuimoon; 38,254 via Changchow (increase, 3,165); 31,357 via Fotochow (decrease, 7,192); and 853,435 via Kowloon (decrease, 368,838). Doubtless the increase via Capsuimoon and Changchow is due to the families of merchants and others returning home to escape the plague, whilst the closing of the gambling establishments on the Kowloon shore accounts for the deficit in that direction. The falling off via Fotochow to points along the north coast is not surprising, since, in their hurry to escape from Hongkong, gangs of coolies elected to try the overland route rather than wait for passage by either steam-launch or junk. In fact, in view of the troublesome times, the local authorities were averse to the visits of steam-launches filled with passengers who might, or might not, prove to be *bona fide* travellers.

OPIMUM.

(a.) *Foreign*.—Notwithstanding that the total (41,578 chests) reported as having reached Hongkong during the season was in excess of 1893 supplies by 2,480 chests, the quantity brought to the Kowloon stations for examination showed a further decline of 275 piculs, or, say, 30 per cent., and was represented by 641 piculs in all. The opium importations via Kowloon stations during the seasons 1888 to 1894 have been as follows:—

1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Piculs	Piculs	Piculs	Piculs	Piculs	Piculs	Piculs
2,851	2,453	1,810	1,447	961	916	641

Speaking generally of the year's transactions in drugs, I have been kindly furnished with the following particulars:—"The season opened with a prospect of short yields both in Persia and Bengal. The Indian Government notified a shortage of 5,100 chests in the monthly sales for 1895, and later on found it necessary to reduce quantities for the current season by 420 chests per month from October. This afforded a good opportunity for Indian speculators, who forced up prices, which gradually advanced until in December they showed a rise in the Hongkong market for the 12 months of \$230 in Patna and \$210 in Benares per chest. Persian also advanced by \$150 per picul. The crop of Malwa was excellent, but the duty in Bombay was increased by Rs. 50, and owing to this and other influences, this variety also participated in the improvement in price, to the extent of \$90 per picul. Another noticeable feature in con-

nexion with the opium trade was the reduction last summer in the American tariff, to the extent of 40 per cent. it is understood, which gradually stimulated an unusual demand, and helped to maintain rates at a high level. The requirements of the American market were met by shipments of prepared drug, chiefly Patna, procured through the Macao native opium farmer. The season closed with a prospect of further advances in prices for opium of all kinds." The following summary shows the importations of foreign opium into Hongkong in the seasons 1888 to 1894:—

1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Chests.	Chests.	Chests.	Chests.	Chests.	Chests.	Chests.
71,513	62,430	62,464	58,419	56,861	39,098	41,578

(b.) *Native*.—It would be surprising if, under the circumstances above related, an impetus had not been given to the traffic in native drug, and evidence is not wanting to prove that the opportunity has been fully availed of. Vast quantities of the product of the Szechwan, Yunnan, and Kweichow poppy fields are reported as now reaching Canton via Wu-chou-fu and Fatsan, and are thence distributed, either in the crude state or prepared and packed in jars, throughout the Kowloon district and along the adjacent seaboard; but without data it is useless to attempt even an approximate estimate of the annual supply.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The net value of the trade for the year totals up as follows:—

	Hk. Tls.
Foreign imports from Hongkong	15,326,719
Native imports from Hongkong	3,438,540
Native imports China to China	2,256,484
Exports to Hongkong	19,665,908
Exports Hongkong to Macao	2,987,262
Exports Macao to Hongkong	1,140,015

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

In the fight between the two clans of Li and Yung in the village of Ho Tong, in San-ui district, the officers used all possible means to stop it, but to no purpose. A few days ago two San-as belonging to the said village were summoned to Canton by the high officers. When they arrived at Canton, they were asked why they did not try to suppress the fight. They said that most of the villagers were of a war-like disposition and that their feeling against each other was still very hot, so that they were unable to control them. On hearing this the Canton officers told the two gentry to return and tell the people to stop the fight at once and that if any one disregarded the order he would be severely dealt with. It was further ordered that the clan of Li must give compensation to the clan of Yung, for the former destroyed a good many houses belonging to the latter.

The military officer who took the Canton soldiers to Formosa returned to Canton the other day. As soon as he arrived at Canton, he went to see the Tartar-General, who asked him why he allowed his soldiers to commit robberies and other serious offences. The military officer in question was unable to speak a word in reply. The Tartar-General gave him a scolding and then turned him out of doors.

On the 15th inst. several Chinese gunboats loaded with guns and ammunition were despatched to Wuchow, in Kwangsi, because General So Un-ohan wishes to have the province of Kwangsi strongly fortified and some time ago he sent to Canton for the said arms.

The Canton officers have ordered all the opium divans in Canton and Honam to be closed, because robbers and persons of bad character often take refuge in them.

On the 15th and 16th inst. the West River was full of water and nearly overflowed its banks, but as there has been little rain these last few days the water has gone down a little.

On the 13th inst. at 9 a.m., in the village of Tai Sa-hu, in Nam-hoi district, the wind blew exceedingly hard and the sky became very dark. The gale did not cease till 11 a.m. of the same day. Some pawnbrokers' shops were blown down and trees uprooted. At 11 a.m. the gale struck the village of Nam-been-hu, in the district of Sam-sui. In that place more than twenty houses were blown down, and in a village named Quon-in nine houses were destroyed.

HONGKONG.

Everybody is anxiously waiting for the rain to come. The water supply has been again limited to a few hours in the morning, and matters have a serious appearance. Drought at this time of the year is unprecedented. Since 14th June there have been thirteen cases of plague, eleven of the patients have died, and two are under treatment. On Wednesday Inspector Mann, who has retired from the Police Force, was presented with a gold watch by the officers of the Force. The Sanitary Board met on Thursday, and the restrictions on the passenger traffic from Swatow were removed, as there had been a decided decrease of plague in that port. The annual meeting of the Hongkong Electric Co. Limited, was held on Saturday.

As a result of the amalgamation of the Choral Society and Musical Club a new Society has been formed to be called the Hongkong Philharmonic Society, the prospectus of which has just been issued.

There have been several cases of plague at Kowloon city lately. As there is a good deal of passenger traffic between Hongkong and Kowloon city, measures should be at once taken to prevent importation into the colony of cases from that quarter.

The actions which two Chinamen had entered against Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, to recover certain money seized in a gambling raid, were not heard at the Supreme Court on Friday as a settlement was arrived at.

We have to acknowledge receipt from the Chinese Customs of the Returns of Trade and Trade Reports for the year 1894, the Customs Gazette for the January-March quarter, and the Medical Reports for the year ended 30th September, 1893.

The water is now turned on only between the hours of 6 and 10 a.m. Unless the rain comes very soon the plight of the colony is likely to become serious. A drought extending so late in the season is unprecedented in the history of the colony.

The M. M. steamer *Yarra*, which left Marseilles on the 26th May with mails, has been detained in Colombo, owing to a slight accident, and she was expected to leave that port for Hongkong on Thursday evening. Her mails will be brought here by the next English mail steamer.

Ten coolies took part in a clan fight at Hung-hom on the 11th inst. and at the Police Court on Thursday they were bound over to keep the peace. P.C. Kerr was complimented by Mr. Wodehouse for his smart conduct in obtaining assistance and arresting the whole of the prisoners.

It is notified that the following Ordinances have been approved by Her Majesty:—An Ordinance to Prevent the Sketching of Defences, an Ordinance to declare the effect of Ordinances repealing others, and an Ordinance to amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1887, in relation to Common Lodging Houses.

A schoolboy named Chan Achu was charged at the Magistracy on Thursday with stealing \$1.50 belonging to Mr. W. S. Frowde, engineer in the Naval Yard. The boy was caught by an engineer on the *Linnet*, who slept in the same room as the prosecutor, while he was helping himself to the money from a dressing table. The boy was ordered to receive ten strokes with the rattan.

Three privates in the Rifle Brigade and a seaman on the *Annandale* were charged before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse yesterday with assault. On Saturday they took a launch to Tsimsaitui and quarrelled with the collector about the fare. One of them struck him in the chest, another gave him a blow on the arm, and the other two encouraged the attack. A fine of \$10 was imposed on the first assailant, and the remainder were each fined \$5.

A "smasher" was charged at the Police Court on Saturday before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, with uttering 420 twenty-cent pieces. On Friday night he went into a money changer's shop at 75, Praya Central, and asked for bank notes in exchange for the pieces. He offered them at a discount of two per cent. and when it was found that the coins were counterfeit he bolted, but was soon afterwards caught. He was remanded until Saturday in order that the Canton mint authorities might be communicated with.

The inauguration of the new line of steamers between Spain, Manila, and Hongkong has, we understand, been postponed, so far as Hongkong is concerned, on account of quarantine restrictions likely to follow the publication of the fact that a few sporadic cases of plague have occurred in the colony.

Messrs. Lamke and Rogge inform us that they have received a telegram from Messrs. W. G. Halo & Co., Saigon, stating that ten days' quarantine will be enforced at that port on all vessels arriving from Hongkong. At Haiphong on the 12th inst. a notification was issued to the effect that free pratique would be given to vessels arriving from Hongkong provided that they had no Asiatic passengers on board and that there had been no case of illness on board. The same rule would no doubt be issued at Saigon on the same date. From the telegram received by Messrs. Lamke and Rogge it would seem that a different decision has since been arrived at.

The following notification appears in Saturday's *Gazette*:—It is hereby notified that the proclamation prohibiting the immigration of Chinese into the colony from the colony of Macao and the island of Hainan, issued by the Governor in Council, under section 1 of Ordinance 5 of 1895, on the 23rd day of April last, and published in the *Government Gazette Extraordinary* of that date, has this day been revoked by order of the Governor in Council so far as the island of Hainan only is concerned, and that the further proclamation prohibiting Chinese immigration from the port of Swatow issued under like authority on the 30th day of April last, and published in the *Government Gazette Extraordinary* of that date, has likewise been revoked this day.

ICHANG.

13th June.

It looked last week as if we were on the eve of a disturbance. Rumour was rife throughout the whole city. It was in every mouth that a man had been captured, taken to the yamen, and had received 4,000 blows because he had kidnapped three children and sold them to the Roman Catholics. The priest having bought the children gave them each some medicine to drink. Two drank it off, while one kept the liquid in her mouth. Instantly the eyes of the two who had drunk came out and were taken by the priest and locked away in a box. The girl who had not swallowed the medicine ran away at this sight. We laugh at the absurdity of such a story, but it was talked about and earnestly believed by the people in the city. It was just such a rumour of kidnapping and selling children that led to the former riot, and very little seeing the Dragon Boat Races were going on—would have set the people all aflame and brought their hate and vengeance on our heads.

The Consul on being told the state of affairs wrote to the magistrate. He at once issued a proclamation warning the people against disseminating or believing such stories regarding the Roman Catholics. He said, "The original idea of the Roman Catholics was to exhort men to be good." There was nothing very strong in the proclamation, as if the magistrate himself had an inner dislike of the mission.

One wonders when the Chinese people will cease to believe such absurd stories regarding the Roman Catholics or any other foreigners. The people on being talked to on the impossibility of such inhuman deeds being done by any Christian always retort, "We believe because we have no evidence to the contrary; we are not allowed to go into the Roman Catholic chapels and see for ourselves." We wish our R. C. friends would throw their chapels, hospitals, convents, and schools open wide, and let people see what is done in them; then surely rumour would cease. But sad to say, the doors are closed and the public are not admitted. Whether it is pride or ignorance that causes such a policy we know not, but we wish things were otherwise.

The news of the riots in Chengtu and elsewhere does not yet seem to be generally reported amongst the Chinese. When the circumstances are known we may suffer. It was expected by many writers while the war was going on that the trouble would come after it was over, and we seem to be getting into unsettled

times with very doubtful prospects. A friend in Wanhien writes that trouble is feared there once the news of the riots reaches the ears of the people. He also states that 60 miles away an insurrection is in progress. Wanhien is halfway between Iohang and Chungking and is in Szechuen province.

What really seems to be needed for the complete humiliation of China and to bring her to her senses is not a march and an attack on Peking, but a holding of the Yangtze and the advance of an armed force into the very heart of the Empire.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

General Chang, Commander-in-Chief of Chokiang, whose headquarters are in Ningpo, went out in the Chinese corvette *Yuankai* recently, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, for a cruise off Taichow and the Chusan Islands and captured a piratical junk with forty men on board.

The German gunboat *Iliss* left Amoy on the 16th inst. for Shanghai and the French cruiser *Forfait* left on the same day for Tainanfu. These vessels, it will be remembered, were sent to Amoy in view of apprehended disturbances by the disbanded soldiers from Formosa, but apparently their presence is no longer considered necessary.

The typhoon which was recently announced as having entered the Gulf of Tonkin was experienced at Haiphong and Hongay on the evening of Wednesday, 12th inst. The wind blew with great violence, but thanks to the timely notice given and the precautions which were consequently taken the damage done was not very great.

The *Kiangkwan* arrived at Shanghai on Friday, 14th inst., from Hankow in a disabled condition. On the 11th instant at 2.25 a.m. the port paddle wheel broke and the vessel anchored a mile below Tunglin, where she was taken in tow on the 12th by the *Margarete*; she anchored again the same night; proceeding next morning she arrived at the Red Buoy on Thursday night and transhipped her passengers to the *Margarete*. The *Kiangkwan* was taken in tow by the *Samson* on Friday morning and brought up to the Settlements.

Wuhu, the *N. C. Daily News* says, is in a rather unsettled condition just now, for the Chinese rowdies having heard of the anti-Christian riots in Szechuen think they have a good chance of causing trouble at the river port. A few days ago they visited the Roman Catholic mission and said a child had been lost and they were going to search the premises. The Taoist, who was communicated with, said there was no need to fear, as the child had been found, and a gunboat appearing on the scene the rowdies ceased their talk, but as soon as the vessel left they again commenced to stir up rumours.

The Peking correspondent of the *China Gazette* writes on the 13th inst.:—"The trouble in Szechuen are looked upon by the Imperial Court as in the nature of a warning of worse things to happen. Liu Chuan-lin, the newly appointed Viceroy of that province, has been ordered to proceed to his post without the formality of coming up here for audience—a very unusual course." The same paper in its issue of the 18th inst. says:—"We have reason to believe that the French Government has obtained a promise from the Tsungli Yamen that all the demands of M. Gerard in connection with the Chengtu outrages will be assented to in full."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 17th June.—Business reported since the 10th inst. is as under:—

	1895.	1894.
Settlements ...	19,131 ½-chests.	17,638 ½-chests.
Consisting of the following Teas:—		
Ningchows ...	9,028 ½-chests. at Tls.	13.00 to 45.00
Ho-hows	626 " "	14.25 to 16.25
Oonpaks	1,378 " "	13.00 to 23.00
Oonams	1,776 " "	12.50 to 18.00
Oonfaas	3,910 " "	15.50 to 29.00
Ichang.....	1,405 " "	21.00 to 32.00
Seang-tams...	1,008 " "	9.00 to 12.25

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular last season:—

	1895.	1894.
Hankow Tea.		
Settlements ...	510,674 ½-chests.	454,891 ½-chests.
Stock	44,767 " "	16,789 " "
Arrivals	555,441 " "	471,680 " "

	1895.	1894.
Kiukiang Tea.		
Settlements ...	260,424 ½-chests.	210,615 ½-chests.
Stock	12,832 " "	4,896 " "
Arrivals	273,256 " "	215,511 " "

The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding circular last year is as under:—

	1895.	1894.
For London and America	160,000 ½-chests.	166,000 ½-chests.
For Russia.....	611,098 " "	499,506 " "
	771,098 " "	665,506 " "

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao.....	1,240,050	946,688
Shanghai and Hankow	3,283,443	6,876,185
	4,523,493	7,822,873

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy	2,112,164	1,176,938
Foochow	28,823	163,342
	2,140,987	1,340,280

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai ...	15,267,099	14,683,414

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	3,617,492	3,125,000
Kobe	1,170,801	737,196
	4,788,293	3,862,196

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 20th June.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London advices dated 18th inst. report the silk market "firm" and quote Gold Kiling at 7/9 and Blue Elephants at 9/6. Raw Silk.—Business continues on a large scale, and settlements for the week are about 3,000 bales. The market is strong and prices show an advance of Tls. 10 to 15 on last quotations. Tealees.—Fully 1,500 bales were settled during the week at advancing rates. In the face of this large business, holders are very firm and in some instances are asking a further advance on current rates. We quote Gold Kiling Tls. 332½. Taysams.—Are rather quiet at quotations given below. Yellow Silks.—The demand continues both for India and the continent. Mienyangs and Foo-yungs attracting most attention. Prices paid show no advance on last week's rates, but the market is firm. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 13th to the 19th current are 4,251 bales of White, 104 bales of Yellow, and 913 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Further contracts of Steam and Croisée Filatures continue to be made at full rates for the United States. Market Filatures have been in good demand for the continent. In Re-reels there is nothing doing. Wild Silk.—There is a fair demand for Tussah Raws and Filatures at unchanged prices. Waste Silk.—The only purchases made this week are about 500 piculs of Tussah Wastes of various descriptions. In new season's Wastes nothing has been done yet.

Purchases include:—Tsatees.—Bird Fung-ling at Tls. 410, ditto. Chun-ling at Tls. 392½, ditto. King-ling at Tls. 360, Mountain 3 at Tls. 392½, ditto. 4 at Tls. 365, Gold Lion at 360, Gold Kiling at Tls. 332½, Silver Double Elephant at Tls. 332½, Blue Phoenix at Tls. 332½, Three Pagoda at Tls. 295. Hangchow Tsatees.—Pagoda Tingfoong (old cargo) at Tls. 320, ditto. Tinghow at Tls. 312½ to Tls. 317½. Taysam.—Wh. Kahing Gold Lion Ex. 1 at Tls. 325, Green Kahing Woman and Loom at Tls. 335 ditto, Tongpan at 307½, ditto. Cicada 1 at Tls. 363½, 9/12 Moss Single Butterfly at Tls. 337½, ditto. Double Butterfly 1 at Tls. 307½, do. 2 at 290.—Chincum.—Tiger Chop Ting-Ting-

how at Tls. 355, do. Tinghow at Tls. 345, Peach Tree Extra 1 at Tls. 332, do. No. 1 at Tls. 322, Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 255, Meeyang at Tls. 215 and Tls. 217, do. White at Tls. 220, Fooyung SSS at Tls. 207, do. Market 1 at Tls. 200, Szechong at Tls. 172, Filature.—Veekee Old Man Croisée Extra 1 at Tls. 510, do. No. 1 at Tls. 500, do. No. 2 at Tls. 490, Blue Lion Croisée No. 1 at Tls. 480, do. No. 2 at Tls. 470, do. No. 3 at Tls. 460, Red Hand Haining No. 1 at Tls. 500, do. No. 2 at Tls. 490, do. No. 3 at Tls. 480, Black Horse No. 1 at Tls. 460, do. No. 2 at Tls. 450, Wild Silk.—Tussah Raw Market 1 at Tls. 157.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Shanghai	1,796	1,080
Canton	763	239
	2,559	1,319

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Canton	527	397
Shanghai	673	201
	1,200	598

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 25th June.—The market remains as last reported, no alteration in quotations having taken place. Quotations for Formosa are \$68.00 to \$68.50. During the past week sales have been 200 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25th June.—Prices have risen during the week, holders being firmer in anticipation of a large demand from the North. Following are the quotations:—

Sheklong, No. 1, White...	\$7.20 to 7.22	per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.68 to 6.71	"
Sheklong, No. 1, Brown...	4.68 to 4.70	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.56 to 4.58	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.11 to 7.15	"
do. " 2, White...	6.65 to 6.67	"
do. " 1, Brown...	4.47 to 4.50	"
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.25 to 4.30	"
Focchow Sugar Candy	10.10 to 10.12	"
Sheklong	8.97 to 9.00	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Kriemhild*, Hongkong to Harb. 4th June, took:—50 boxes Staranised, 40 cases Blackwoodware, 1 case Pongees, 2 cases Birdskins, 185 boxes Canes, 85 cases Bristles, 4 cases Feathers, 11 cases Human Hair, 188 packages Tea, 275 rolls Mats, 4 cases Gongs, 9 cases Chinaware, 5 cases Lanterns, 1 case Curries, and 1 bale Rattan; for Havre option Hamburg:—25 boxes Staranised Oil, 100 cases Camphor, 10 cases Hair, and 5 cases Fans; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—20 boxes Bristles and 1,862 cases Camphor; for Hamburg:—100 boxes Camphor, 32 bales Rattans, 28 cases Chinaware, 5,300 packages Tea, 67 cases Bristles, 500 cases Cassia, 4 cases Silks, 3 cases Human Hair, 230 bales Feathers, 30 bales Rattancore, 148 bales Mats, 6 cases Private Effects, 16 cases Palm Leaf Fans, 82 packages Merchandise, 11 packages Sundries, and 100 bales Galangal; for Hamburg option London:—2 cases Bristles; for Bremen:—100 boxes Tea.

The steamer *Achilles*, Hongkong to London, 18th June, took:—6,108 boxes Tea (105,714 lbs. Scented Capet, 17,451 lbs. Congou, 5,103 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe), 40 cases Bristles, 6 cases Blackwoodware, 21 cases Chinaware, 150 rolls Mats, 6 cases Silk Piece Goods, 52 cases M. O. P. Shells, 130 packages Canes, and 1,225 packages Crackers; for Continent:—200 bales Hemp.

The American ship *Challenger*, Hongkong to New York, 18th June, took:—6,250 packages Fire Crackers, 481 cases Woodware, 350 cases Saigon Cassia, 300 rolls Matting, and 190 bales Rattans. From Shanghai:—2,284 bales Strawbraids, 1,780 bales Wool, 109 bales Bush Hats, and 1 case Private Effects.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 25th June.—Bengal.—A slight improvement has taken place in prices during the past week, but business has been rather meagre. New Patna and New and Old Benares are quoted at the close at \$765, and Old Patna at \$800.

Malwa.—There has not been any noteworthy change in the market during the interval. The market closes dull at the following figures:—

New	\$680 with a'wance of 2 1/2 cts.
Old (2 years)	\$710 " " 1 1/2 o 2 "
Older	\$720 " " 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 "
Persian	Very little has been done in this drug.

Oily continues to be quoted at \$700 to \$750 and

Paper-wrapped at \$760 to \$820 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,360 chests.
Old Patna	110 "
New Benares	510 "
Old Benares	380 "
Malwa	800 "
Persian	850 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June 20	762 1/2	800	756 1/2	775	680	710/720
June 21	763 1/2	800	760	775	680	710/720
June 22	765	800	762 1/2	770	680	710/720
June 23	765	800	762 1/2	765	680	710/720
June 24	765	800	765	765	680	710/720
June 25	765	800	765	765	680	710/720

RICE.

HONGKONG, 25th June.—There have been large arrivals and as the new cargo will soon come forward prices have further declined. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.10 to 2.12
" Round, good quality	2.29 to 2.31
" Long	2.42 to 2.45
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.11 to 2.14
" Garden, " No. 1	2.44 to 2.47
Siam White	2.88 to 2.90
" Fine Cargo	3.07 to 3.10

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th June.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—154 bales No. 10 at \$64.50 to \$71.50, 245 bales No. 12 at \$72 to \$75, 25 bales No. 16 at \$51, 380 bales No. 20 at \$79 to \$83. White Shirtings.—1,000 pieces No. 600 at \$4, 2,500 pieces No. 66,000 at \$5.25, 500 pieces X. 6 at \$3.38, 500 pieces X. 7 at \$3.68, 500 pieces X. 8 at \$3.98, 500 pieces X. 9 at \$4.25, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.55, 150 pieces Gold Lion at \$5.30, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.60, 1,500 pieces R. R. R. R. R. at \$4.15, Grey Shirtings.—600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Black Peach at \$2.07, 600 pieces Red Fish at \$2.20, 1,250 pieces 10 lbs. Palm Chop at \$3.75. T. Cloths.—375 pieces Mex. S. Lion No. 1 at \$1.79, 375 pieces Mex. S. Lion No. 2 at \$1.78, 300 pieces 8 lbs. V. V. at \$2.72, 2,000 pieces Bombay at \$1.60. Camlets.—50 pieces 9 Old Men, Carandee, at \$16.50.

MALWA.—Yellow Metal.—30 cases New Brand 1 1/2/20 ozs. at \$23.25. Lead.—4,200 piculs Australian at \$6.15. Tin.—250 slabs Foong Chai at \$36.60, 100 slabs Siam at \$36.60.

COTTON YARN.
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20 \$61.00 to \$86.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24 95.00 to 99.00
" 22 to 24 98.00 to 102.00
" 28 to 32 104.00 to 109.00
" 38 to 42 114.00 to 123.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.
Grey Shirtings—6lbs..... 1.25 to 1.35
7lbs..... 1.70 to 1.80
8 1/2 lbs. 1.90 to 2.90
9 to 10 lbs. 3.10 to 3.70
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.00 to 2.25
58 to 60 " 2.40 to 3.00
64 to 66 " 3.10 to 3.50
Fine 3.80 to 6.30
Book-folds.. 2.80 to 5.00

Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.58 to 1.20
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.30 to 1.35
7lbs. (32 ") " 1.72 to 1.90
6lbs. (32 ") , Mexs. 1.50 to 1.60
7lbs. (32 ") , " 1.95 to 2.20
8 to 8 1/2 lbs. (36 in.) 2.10 to 2.90

Drills, English—40 yds., 18 1/2 to 14lbs 3.00 to 4.10
FANCY COTTONS
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5lbs 1.25 to 2.65
Brocades—Dyed 3.55 to 4.50
Damasks 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted 0.07 to 0.11
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.20 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.30

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.40 to 0.80
WOOLLENS
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.55 to 0.85
German 0.95 to 1.10
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.20 to 2.60

Long Ells—Scarlet 6.50 to 7.80
Assorted 6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted 14.00 to 29.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted } 13.50 to 21.00

Orleans—Plain 3.70 to 4.90
Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 4.50 to 9.00
METALS
Iron—Nail Rod 2.95 to 2.90
Square, Flat Round Bar..... 2.85 to 2.90
Swedish Bar 4.45 to —
Small Round Rod..... 3.15 to —
Hoop 4.30 to —
Old Wire Rope 3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 6.15 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 25.50 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz. 25.00 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz. 25.00 to —
Japan Copper. Slabs..... 23.50 to —
do. Tiles 23.50 to —
Tin 37.00 to —

Tin-Plates 5.20 to —
Steel 5.30 to —
SUNDRIES
Quicksilver 119.50 to —
Window Glass 3.20 to —
Kerosene Oil..... 2.00 to 2.05

SHANGHAI, 20th June.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—A good demand has continued throughout the interval both for spot cargo and to arrive, the general opinion being that the trade is in a more satisfactory position than for a long time past. Business must, in the aggregate, have amounted to fully as much as done in each of the previous two weeks, although operators seem to be more reticent with regard to disclosing their transactions. The enquiry for 8.4-lbs. Shirtings appears to be a little quieter at the moment, no doubt because holders are endeavouring to establish higher prices, but for most other goods it is steadily increasing, one or two particular lines being especially strong, 12-lbs. 34-inch Shirtings notably so. The quantity bought for arrival here during the three next months is certainly heavy, and it is expected that a lull will now ensue for two or three weeks, during which time the dealers will be able to form a better opinion of the prospects in the internal markets. So far, beyond a general scarcity of stocks, there is nothing strikingly encouraging; in fact the Tientsin market, on which so many hopes were placed, seems to be disappointingly quiet and hardly responds to the firmer feeling prevailing here. Goods are going up in fairly large quantities, but prices must improve considerably before the recent purchases made here cover cost. The first direct steamer for Newchwang was despatched yesterday morning, but she only carried some 700 packages of piece goods and yarn, a large proportion of which had been sold there to arrive. Trade is not properly re-established yet, and the outcome of this first venture will be watched with interest. It is understood that the Japanese authorities, who are still in possession of the place, have promised not to impose any duties on foreign goods, or to put any obstacles in their way, so that although for a time transactions will be probably on the barter system, business will doubtless soon return to its old groove when confidence is restored. There is more enquiry for Szechuen and the River Ports, and the Ningpo trade is improving now that the steamers are permitted to go right up to that city again.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Biefield's report)—21st June:—Since my last the market has been dull, but native dealers are not in any depressed or downhearted mood, and apparently view the future with an equanimity that they have not been exhibiting for many months. In spite of this, stocks do not move off easily and "hard cargo" is at a discount in the majority of lines. Chinese holdings are sufficiently large for any immediate wants, so that all in importers' hands hangs fire. What business is passing is mainly for future arrival, but even that has been of no great importance this week. Reports from Newchwang are waited for with interest, two steamers having left for that port this week, with general cargo; the first since the end of the war. Lead.—The only sale reported is:—100 tons L.B. at Tls. 5.05 "to arrive". Iron.—Almost nothing has been settled, but a good many contracts are believed to be on the tapis. Nailrods, I hear, have been offered at bottom rates, without eliciting result. Contracts have been booked for:—200 tons Pig Iron Redcar, No. 3, at Tls. 21.60, "to arrive," and 200 tons Bar Iron, Belgian, No. 3, at Tls. 2.37 1/2, "to arrive." Scrap.—There is I think an upward tendency gradually making itself felt. The following transactions are reported:—50 tons Boiler Plates at Tls. 1.60, "spot," 200 tons Steel Plate Cuttings (mixed) at 75 sh. c. i. f. guaranteed weight, and 200 tons Antwerp Horse-shoes at 75.6 sh. c. i. f. guaranteed weight.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 25th June.—Business has been slack, but rates have ruled steady. We have nothing of any importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled firmer and sales have been effected at 178, 180, and 182 per cent. prem. for cash and at 185 and 186 per cent. prem. for August; market closes with an upward tendency. Nationals have been dealt in in small lots at \$27, \$27½, and \$28.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue on offer at \$162. China Traders have improved to \$67, with sales at that rate and at \$66 and \$66½. Cantons have again changed hands at \$162½ and close steady. Other Marine stock has ruled neglected.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have improved to \$205, after sales at \$198 and \$200. Chinas have continued weak at \$84, some few shares changing hands at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao ruled weak in the early part of the period under review and shares changed hands as low as \$31½; later, however, they recovered and sales were effected at \$31½, \$32, \$32½, and \$33; market closes with sellers at \$32½. Douglas's have been dealt in further at \$50½ and \$50, closing with sellers at former rate.

REFINERIES.—Continued neglected.

MINING.—Punjoms with sales at \$5.40, \$5.50, and \$5.60 are now quoted at \$5.75. In other Mining stock we have nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks, as predicted in our last, have jumped considerably and a fair number of shares have changed hands at 101, 102, 103, and 104 per cent. prem., and higher rates may be looked for. Lands continue to change hands in small lots at \$59½. Kowloon Wharfs have found further buyers at \$41, and Watsons at \$94.

Closing quotations are:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	182 p. ct. pm., sales
China & Japan, prf.	...	nominal [buyers]
Do. ordinary	21	nominal
Do. deferred	21	nominal
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares.....	28	\$28, sales
Found. Shares....	21	nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. }	21	nominal
Agency, Ltd. ... }	15s.	\$10, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. }	\$50	14½, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co. }	\$11	12
China Borneo	\$55	nominal
China Sugar	\$100	\$105, seller
Chinese Loan '86 E. }	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruick & Co. }	\$3	\$1
Dairy Farm Co. }	\$10	17
Fenwick & Co., Geo. }	\$25	16½, sellers
Green Island Cement }	\$0	9½, sales
H. Brick & Cement .. }	\$12.50	8, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$3	36
Hongkong & C. Gas .. }	2.0	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric... }	\$8	\$485, sales
H. H. L. Tramways .. }	\$100	\$70, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$81, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G. }	\$50	\$41, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$125
H. & W. Dock	\$125	101 p. ct. prem., [buyers]
Hotels—		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	8, sellers
Shameen	\$20	4
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	162½, sales & buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$84, sales & sellers
China Traders' ... }	\$2.5	\$67, buyers
Hongkong Fire ... }	\$50	\$205, sales
North-China	2.5	Tls. 195, sellers
Straits	\$0	\$184, sales & buyers
Union	\$5	\$162, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$93, buyer
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't .. }	\$50	\$59, buyers
Humphreys Estate .. }	\$10	8
Kowloon Land & B. }	\$30	\$102, sellers
West Point Buildg. }	\$40	\$184, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45
Mining—		
Charbonnages	\$131.58	\$105, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$830, sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$5.30, buyers
Punjom	\$34	\$5.75, sales
Do. (Preference) .. }	\$1	\$1.70, sellers
Raub	13s. 10d	\$1.10, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila ... }	\$50	\$34
Douglas S. S. Co. ... }	\$50	\$0½, sales & sellers
H. Canton, & M. ... }	\$20	\$52, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co. }	\$10	\$53, sellers
W'chai Warehouse Co. }	\$37½	\$37½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ... }	\$10	9½, sales

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 21st June:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have been placed at 174, 175, and 176 per cent. premium, with a small sale at 177½. There are buyers at 176 per cent. premium, with exchange 78. The rate in Hongkong is 179 with buyers. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 127½. China Mutual S. N. Co. Preference shares are offering at 20, and Ordinary shares, with £5 paid up, at £3. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares are wanted in Hongkong at \$31½. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been placed at Tls. 145 and Tls. 147½, and are wanted. Shares in Boyd & Co. are in demand. Marine Insurance.—North-Chinas and Unions are offering. Yangtzes have been sold at \$92½ and Straits at \$17½. Fire Insurance.—There is no change to report in Hongkongs. Chinas are offering at \$84. Each of these Companies had a risk of \$40,000 over the property burned in Yokohama on the 13th current. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been placed, and are offering, at Tls. 297½. Miscellaneous.—Business has been done in:—Shanghai Waterworks shares at Tls. 180, Hall & Holtz shares at \$20, Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 38, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 48, Major Brothers shares at Tls. 20, and Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 130 for June and Tls. 185 for 31st July. Loans.—Chinese E Loan Bonds at Tls. 251½, Shanghai Land Investment Co.'s 6 per cent. Debentures at par, and Country Club Debentures at par, plus the accrued interest in all cases.

Quotations are:—
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—176 per cent. prem.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—\$27.
National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—Nom.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 127½ per sh.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 40 per sh.
China Mutual S. N. Co.—Tls. 50 per share.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70 per sh.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$31½ per share.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$50 per share.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 155 per share.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 14½ per share.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—100 per cent. premium.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$66½ per sh.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 195 per share.
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$160 per share.
Yangtze Insce. Assocn., Ltd.—\$92½ per share.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$160 per share.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$17½ per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—198 per sh.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$84 per share.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 297½ per share.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 50 per share.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$41 per share.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 4 per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1.80 per share.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$34 per sh.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$44 per sh.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 142½ per share.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 130 per sh.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215 per share.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$5 per share.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 180 p. sh.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 29 p. sh.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$106½ per sh.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$45 per share.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$20 per share.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 38 per share.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$59½ per share.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$40 per share.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 48 per sh.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 20 per share.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 550 p. sh.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 130 per share.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 117½ per share.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$9½ per share.
L'Hotel des Colonies.—Tls. 20.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—21.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9.50.

China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.
Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 251½ (a).
Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Nominal.
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 98.

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TUESDAY, 25th June.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/11
Bank Bills, on demand	2/11
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/11
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.66
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.72
ON GERMANY.	
On Demand	2.15
ON NEW YORK.	
Banks Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	53
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	195
Bank, on demand	195½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	195
Bank, on demand	195½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Banks, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	4½ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	4½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.27
60-D. LATE, 100 fine, per tael	\$7.50

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 21st June.—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—The past fortnight has witnessed a great deal of excitement in our freight market, and it is a long time since there have been so many changes in rates. This has been principally confined to Trans-Pacific rates, though for New York via Canal matters have been in a very unsettled state. The advent of a steamer representing the new Oregon Railway and Navigation Company was the signal for an immediate drop in the Pacific rate for tea, which has now fallen to one cent, but it is improbable that it will go any lower. For New York direct via Suez, a further decline has to be reported, and the all-round rate of 50s. for tea and general cargo has once more been resorted to. For New York via London, however, 55s. for tea is still quoted. Rates of freight are:—From Shanghai to London by Conference Line, general cargo 40s., waste silk 45s., tea 55s. Northern Continental ports, general cargo 42s. 6d., waste silk 45s., New York general cargo 50s., tea 50s. New York via London, general cargo 50s., tea 55s. Boston, general cargo 52s. 6d.; Philadelphia, general cargo 60s. Above rates are subjects to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by Shell Line, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo 35s. net.; New York, general cargo 44s. net.; Philadelphia, general cargo 50s. net.; Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net.; Genoa, tallow 35s., general cargo 40s. net.; Marseilles tallow 35s., general cargo 37s. 6d. net.; 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports; New York by sail 25s. Coast rates are:—Chinkiang to Whampoa, 20 candelars regular lines, no demand for outsiders. Moji to Shanghai \$1.80 per ton coal. Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.60 per ton coal. No disengaged vessel in port.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Chingwo (str.), Glenfarg (str.), Kaidow (str.), Pekin (str.), Agamemnon (str.).
For HAMBURG.—Java (str.), Ceylon, Glamorgan-shire (str.), Lawang.
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C.—Erandale (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Lyndhurst, Glenesslin, City of Peking (str.), Alcedo, Belgic (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Santa Clara, Adolph, George F. Mason, Belmont, Fohng Suey, Siam.
For AUSTRALIA.—Changsha.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

June—

ARRIVALS.

- 19, Devonhurst, British str., from Saigon.
 20, Lulin, French gunboat, from Nagasaki.
 20, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 20, Fooksang, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Adour, French str., from Singapore.
 20, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
 20, China, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Amigo, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 20, Wuotan, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Canton, British str., from Canton.
 20, Annandale, British str., from Moji.
 20, Bonnington, British str., from Canton.
 20, Adelante, Spanish str., from Dagupan.
 21, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 21, Queen Victoria, British str., from Manila.
 21, City of Peking, Amr. str., from S. F. cisco.
 21, Moldava, British str., from Whampoa.
 21, Keong Wai, British str., from Wales.
 21, Cheang H. Kian, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 21, Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
 21, Chingwo, British str., from Foochow.
 21, Tainan, British str., from Foochow.
 21, Framnes, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 21, Phra Chom Klao, Br't. str., from Bangkok.
 21, Bittern, British sch., from Albany.
 21, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Swatow.
 22, Hupeh, British str., from Java.
 22, Menmuir, British str., from Sydney.
 22, Nanchang, British str., from Swatow.
 22, Sikh, British str., from Kobe.
 22, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 23, Argyll, British str., from Singapore.
 23, Continental, Dutch str., from Iloilo.
 23, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 23, Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
 23, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
 23, Lifoo, German str., from Shanghai.
 23, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
 23, Tejen, German str., from Canton.
 23, Kwongmo, British str., from Amoy.
 23, Radnorshire, British str., from London.
 23, Turbo, British str., from Kobe.
 24, Catterthun, British str., from Foochow.
 24, Pathan, British str., from Singapore.
 24, Rio, German str., from Saigon.
 24, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
 24, Queen Adelaide, Brit. str., from Whampoa.
 24, Sham, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 24, Lord Brassey, Brit. 4-m. sh., from N. York.
 24, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
 24, Polyphemus, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.
 25, Siam, British str., from Yokohama.
 25, Java, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Kaiser, German ironclad, from Singapore.
 25, Ran, Norwegian str., from Hamburg.
 25, Fokien, British str., from Canton.
 25, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.

June—

DEPARTURES.

- 19, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 19, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 19, Ulysses, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Ethiopie, Brit. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 19, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 19, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
 19, Aglaia, German str., for Singapore.
 20, Ravenna, British str., for Europe, &c.
 20, Jens Meinloh, Norw. str., for Shanghai.
 20, Fooksang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Azamor, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Shantung, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Canton, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Moldava, Brit. str., for Honcohe Bay.
 21, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
 21, Bonnington, British str., for Takow.
 21, Telamon, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Lulin, French g-b., for Haiphong.
 22, Singapore, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, Adolph, German bark, for New York.
 22, Adour, French str., for Shanghai.
 22, Cheang H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 22, Chiynen, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Chingwo, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 22, Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Tainan, British str., for Australia.
 22, Wuotan, German str., for Swatow.
 22, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 23, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.

- 23, Benvenue, British str., for Saigon.
 23, Bogstad, Norw. str., for Java.
 23, Deuterios, German str., for Bangkok.
 23, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 23, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 23, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Wm. Le Lacheur, Brit. bark, for Mantung.
 24, Keong Wai, British str., for Nagasaki.
 24, Lifoo, German str., for Canton.
 24, Nanchang, British str., for Bangkok.
 25, Catterthun, British str., for Australia.
 25, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 25, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Amigo, German str., for Bangkok.
 25, Cath. Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
 25, Cromarty, British str., for Amoy.
 25, Devonhurst, British str., for Lapan.
 25, Evandale, British str., for Amoy.
 25, Fooksang, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Pathan, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Durope.
 25, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
 25, Queen Adelaide, British str., for Manila.
 25, Turbo, British str., for London.
 25, Tejen, German str., for Chefoo.

AMOY.

ARRIVALS.

June—

- 12, Kwongmo, British str., from Tamsui.
 12, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
 12, Forfait, French cruiser, from Woonung.
 12, Hook Po, Chinese g-b., from Chuan Chiu.
 12, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 12, Iltis, German gun-boat, from Tamsui.
 12, L. Schepp, American ship, from New York.
 13, Martha, German str., from Taiwanfoo.
 13, Chan Shan, British str., from Swatow.
 13, Thales, British str., from Takow.
 13, Emp. of China, Brit. str., from Hongkong.
 14, Nanyong, British str., from Hongkong.
 14, Esmeralda, British str., from Hongkong.
 15, Poating, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Wenchow, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 15, Formosa, British str., from Hongkong.
 16, Kwongmo, British str., from Tamsui.
 16, Namoa, British str., from Hongkong.
 17, Asloun, British str., from Hongkong.
 17, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 17, Anna Bertha, German bk., from Chefoo.
 18, Fokien, British str., from Tamsui.
 18, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Taiwanfoo.
 19, Shantung, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Haitan, British str., from Hongkong.
 19, Paoting, British str., from Swatow.
 20, Redbreast, British gunboat, from Anping.
 20, Thales, British str., from Hongkong.
 20, Chingwo, British str., from Foochow.

June—

DEPARTURES.

- 11, Arthur, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, Sing Pau, Chinese g-b., for Hongkong.
 12, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Tamsui.
 12, Peik, Norw. str., for Moji.
 12, Kwongmo, British str., for Tamsui.
 12, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Mary Stewart, German bk., for Nagasaki.
 13, Nam Tin, Chinese cruiser, for Shanghai.
 13, Martha, German str., for Shanghai.
 13, Hailoong, British str., for Tamsui.
 13, Emp. of China, British str., for Vancouver.
 13, Hook Po, Chinese g-b., for Shanghai.
 13, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Chan Shan, British str., for Straits.
 14, Swatow, German str., for Moji.
 15, Wenchow, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
 15, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 16, Iltis, German gun-boat, for Shanghai.
 17, Poating, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Claro Babuyan, British bk., for Foochow.
 17, Forfait, French cruiser, for Taiwanfoo.
 17, Namoa, British str., for Foochow.
 17, Kwongmo, British str., for Tamsui.
 17, Formosa, British str., for Tamsui.
 17, Nanyong, British str., for Straits.
 18, Asloun, British str., for Portland.
 18, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Haitan, British str., for Foochow.
 20, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Singapore*, steamer, from Bangkok.—233 Chinese.
 Per *Telamon*, steamer, from Singapore.—Mr. Brawn, and 244 Chinese.
 Per *Hailoong*, steamer, from Coast Ports.—Messrs. Hastings and J. Lapraik, and Count Butler.

Per *Catherine Apoor*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Messrs. Craymer, King, Rudolf, Cohen, Moosabhoj, Wee Hup Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Kwee Hoo and child, and 511 Chinese.

Per *Fooksang*, str., from Shanghai.—Miss Jones, Messrs. Smith and Evans.

Per *Keong Wai*, str., from Barry, Wales.—Mrs. Ritchie.

Per *Activ*, str., from Pakhoi.—Dr. and Mrs. Harder, and 221 Chinese.

Per *City of Peking*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. John Bradbury, Miss C. O'Connor, Messrs. T. B. Cunningham, A. P. Nobbs, W. B. Walker, Lau Chong, Mrs. H. E. Doberek, Mrs. Chai Quai and 4 children, and 136 Chinese.

Per *Phra Chom Klao*, str., from Bangkok.—Messrs. Deacon and Mager.

Per *Lifoo*, str., from Shanghai.—Mr. Miller.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mrs. Ewenson.

Per *Hanoi*, str., from Haiphong.—Colonel and Madame de Nays Candan, Capt. Bandiction.

Per *Menmuir*, str., from Sydney.—Dr. Formolos, Major Antonius, Capt. Corduro, Lieut. Calvery, Messrs. H. Dobritz and J. C. Abell, Masters Paulo and De Roche.

Per *Hohenzollern*, str., from Nagasaki.—Mrs. Cohn, Mrs. Bartels and 3 children, Dr. J. Rohl, Messrs. Knobloch, A. W. Schmidt, Reynolds, Lührs, Sittling, E. Elvey, Innis, Jas. A. Young, W. Wilson, Mitchell, Davidson, Hashimoto, Arnecke, and Oldman.

Per *Catterthun*, str., from Kobe, &c.—Mrs. Taylor.

Per *Radnorshire*, str., from London.—Prof. E. C. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Salter and family.

Per *Lyeemoon*, str., from Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. Edeler, Mr. Schomburg.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, str., from Shanghai.—Mrs. Brenann and child, Mr. and Mrs. Calder, Mrs. Engelbart, Messrs. Engelbart, Dreyer, Wischeropp, J. B. Adkins, J. S. Taylor, J. G. Rylander and family, Prof. F. Hirth, J. Jaryms and family, John McIntosh, B. Beverly, C. Rombach, von Dassel, W. H. Michaelson.

Per *Oceanien*, str., for Hongkong from Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. Pereira and infant, Messrs. Girault, Lagresilliere, Pan Li Son, Lo Chung Sam. From Yokohama.—Lieut. Campbell. From Kobe.—Mr. Teng Tong. For Saigon from Shanghai.—Messrs. Curtillet, Trut, Pradon, Trollet. From Yokohama.—Mr. and Mrs. Cappe, Sisters Mare and St. Briem. For Singapore from Shanghai.—Mr. Jones. From Yokohama.—Messrs. Fuyita, Pereira, Gosoch, Hye Yase. From Kobe.—Mr. Koyama. For Aden from Shanghai.—Mr. Fortunat. For Marseilles from Shanghai.—Miss Croci, Messrs. Catterall, Whitehouse, Mambonchi, Lalaurie, From Yokohama.—Messrs. Onedzuka and Takashima. From Nagasaki.—Mrs. Lefevre and 2 children, Mr. Le Roy.

DEPARTED.

Per *Ravenna*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Rev. J. Gan. For Bombay.—Mr. M. P. Talati. For Brindisi.—Mr. B. C. George Scott. For London.—Messrs. B. Bauld, J. G. Bauld, Inspector. A. and Mrs. Mann and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Milroy, Messrs. S. Simpson and J. Forbes. From Shanghai for Singapore.—Mr. Hans Ziegler. For London.—Messrs. J. Black, J. Williamson and F. McDonald. From Yokohama for Penang.—Miss M. Blakeway. For Colombo.—Mr. and Mrs. Leicester. For London.—Mr. J. S. Neil. From Kobe for Bombay.—Captain M. Baugh. For London.—Captain and Mrs. Thomson.

Per *Ulysses*, str., for London from Shanghai.—Mrs. Such and 3 children. From Hongkong.—Capt. H. C. D. Frampton.

Per *Ceylon*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong.—Messrs. Olaf. Thoresen, C. Bennecke, Taylor. From Singapore.—Mr. J. L. Sardy.

Per *Verona*, str., from Hongkong for Nagasaki.—Mrs. J. H. Cox. For Kobe.—Messrs. A. B. Craymer, A. King, J. Oda, Maurice Bischoffsheim, and Dr. Louis Thomas. For Yokohama.—Messrs. W. G. M. Way, R. N. Way, Osayo Takenouchi, and R. L. Thomas. For Yokohama from Naples.—Mr. W. E. Porter. From Largs Bay.—Mr. and Mrs. Farley, and Miss Farley.

Per *Hailoong*, str., for Tamsui.—Mr. A. Butler.

Per *Hongkong*, str., for Haiphong.—Messrs. Schoenicks, Murray, and Chow Kwan Cheong.